

SAT. SPECIAL / A2-4

Mother Angelica

Construction giant, is a 'cool' nun who's Metro Pacific team up seized in raid of suspected never preachy for 84% in Maynilad

METRO / A19

P30M worth of shahu shabu den in Caloocan SUPER! / C2

The Oscars of Pinoy pop culture: I am Super Awards, Year 3



Teves father-son: Case of communication gap

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A CASE OF MISCOMMUNICATION BETWEEN father and son.

This was how Malacañang tried to calm the tempest created by Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves' outraged reaction to apparently unfounded claims that the Palace was out to curb the powers of his son, Finance Secretary



Saturday, July 22, 2006

BUSINESS / B1

7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 224

Interfaith bishops rally behind 'rebel' bishops

By Christian Esguerra

"WHAT THE ARROYO ADministration is doing to the six bishops is a sign of its rotten and moribund state." according to leaders of major Christian denominations that have thrown their sup-



'A work of bad fiction'

Lawyer says charges vs Gringo based on recanted testimony



Esperon: Southcom splits to go after NPA, Abu

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IN A MAJOR MOVE AIMED AT REmoving the two biggest threats to the country's security, new Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday said the military would split its biggest regional command into two forces:

Army and the other would hunt down the Abu Sayyaf and their allies.

The affected unit is the Southern Command (Southcom), which comprises about 60 percent-or 70,000 troops-of the 120,000-strong Armed

Esperon told reporters that South-

One would go after the New People's com's area of responsibility would be divided between eastern Mindanao and western Mindanao.

The Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist groups are generally based in western Mindanao while the NPA rebels are generally concentrated

At Esperon's formal installation,

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced she had approved "without second thought" the recommendation by former AFP chief Gen. Generoso Senga to divide the Southcom.

"We will divide the Southern Command into two unified commands for more effective troop man-

ESPERON / A&

GMA keeping promise to 3 Sona kids, says Dinky

By Christian V. Esguerra

(First of a series)

THE "SONA BOYS" OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo are all grown up

Like actors who have had enough of the paparazzi, Jayson Vann Banogon, Jomer Pabaian and Erwin Dolera ap-

-TEAM Report Fernando del Mundo Chief PDI-Team

parently want no more of the intense national attention they suddenly got

Away from the glare of media and politics, the three boys are quietly getting on with their lives, through good education and help for their families to earn a living.

These were two of the wishes they set sail on paper boats in 2001, an innocuous media event that would later and legitimate housing for victims of

Ms Arroyo eventually picked up the requests from news reports and paraded Jayson, Jomer and Erwin-then the new and young faces of the government's poverty alleviation program in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) in 2001.

Save for two other wishes-justice

and Norman Bordadora

THE COUNSEL OF EX-SEN. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday dismissed as "a work of bad fiction" claims linking his client to the purported attempt to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo last February.

Honasan's actions and statements advocating political reform, as mentioned in the affidavit of 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, were "twisted to show conspiracy" but still "do not by themselves constitute criminal acts." Daniel Gutierrez said. The lawyer also said Honasan, who led a

series of coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late 1980s, would face his accusers if the government could guarantee fair treatment.

Honasan, who was implicated in the foiled Oakwood mutiny of the Magdalo group of soldiers, is in hiding.

Gutierrez said in a statement that the banner headline of yesterday's issue of the IN-QUARER—"It's the usual suspect"—"says it ali." He added: "Like a bad remake of the Bogart

movie 'Casablanca' (where the chief of police character routinely rounded up the 'usual suspects' to mask his inefficiency), this latest charade of false charges is at best a work of bad

"Senator Honasan is being pilloried, not on the basis of actual concrete evidence of wrongdoing, but on allegations and speculations based on recanted testimony, the provenance of which is suspect."

San Juan was among the officers who mounted the 2003 mutiny. He escaped from his military custodians in January, was captured in February, and last week defected from the Magdalo and pledged allegiance to Ms Arroyo.

In his affidavit, San Juan narrated how Honasan reportedly presided over Magdalo initiation rites for military recruits as well as meetings from 2001 right up to a month before the purported coup attempt

But Gutierrez said Honasan understood San Juan's defection and issuance of the affi-

He said the ex-senator was "not unaware" that San Juan "suddenly recented after being in a bartolina (solitary confinement) longer than the most hardened Bilibid inmate."

Philippine flag protects Pinoys in **East Timor**

By Nikko Dizon

FILIPINOS ARE LOVED BY EAST TIMOrese, says Senior Supt. Edgar Layon, who only knows too well how it is to be in an area in conflict and at the same time try to promote peace.

In 1993, he was sent to Cambodia. He later went to East Timor, joining the United Nations Transnational Authority in East Timor (UNTAET), the UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNM-SET), and finally, the UN Office in Timor Leste (UNOTIL).

Layon spent two years in the East Timor capital of Dili as a UNOTIL training coordinator for the city's local po-

Last May, Layon found himself amid a bloody attack on a UN convoy that left six people dead, and two UN officers wounded, including himself.

East Timor was then gripped by un-PHILIPPINE/ A&

Drilon, priest in Beirut: Where are OFW billions? By Nildro Dizon

"WHERE HAVE THE OFWS' BELLIONS OF pesos in remittances gone?"

Ft Agustin Advincula, the only Filipino priest in Lebanon, raised this question as a second batch of more than 100 overseas Filipino workers joined a massive international exodus of thousands of tired, frightened refugees our of Lebanon. Some foreigners fainted in the blazing summer sun as

crowds waited for ships to take them away.

The Philippine government has admitted it does not have sufficient resources to implement an immediate evacuation of thousands of OFWs, in contrast to the modern transportation facilities other countries are using to pluck their nationals out of

"I don't think our resources are scarce. I think it's more a matter of how the government uses these resources," Advincula said in an overseas phone interview Thursday

OFW remittances in 2005 amounted to \$12.3 billion, including money sent through informal channels.

Advincula, who runs the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Being, where Filipinos had sought refuge before leaving the country, said there were many fees collected from OFWs and at the very least, the funds



IN TOUCH but without touching, Ma. Lourdes Tualla can only cry as she talks to her sister in Lebanon, using the Owwa hotline-for free. At right, prayer mats are spread out in front of the Israel Embassy where Muslim wemen rally for peace in



FORECAST: Southern Luzzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience

mostly cloudy sites with scallened canshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over Western Visayas and Mindanae which

may trigger Bashiloods or landstries. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated ranshowers or themderstorms.

COMMEDIA: KATE PERIOSO POINTS INC. SQUINCE PAGASA.

Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Rains. Cloudy with Rains Capayon de Bea Cloudy will Rains

Changing of the guard at the Senate

Drilon vows smooth turnover to Villar

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SMOOTH CHANGE in the Senate leadership is expected when the third regular sesthe of Congress opens on Monday, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

Drilon said he would immediately nominate Sen. Manuel VIIlar for the Senate presidency upon the opening of the Senate session on Monday. It is expected that Villar will be elected by acclamation, he added.

Gentleman's agreement

Drilon said the forthcoming leadership change was anchored on the gentleman's agreement forged between him and Villar in July 2004.

During a joint press conference of Drilon and Villar last June 8, the outgoing Senate chief had promised to nominate his successor when the third regular session

Richest senator

"I do not do so with a heavy heart. I know I am entrusting that solemn and lofty task to a person, whom the record shows, is far more than equal to it," Drilon said.

Villar, the richest senator, said that given the chance to lead the Senate, there would be no major changes in the institution's policy and pledged to continue its position "as a rampart of freedom."

Longest stint

Drilon will bow out after five years and seven months as president of the Upper Chamber, the longest to hold the position after

the Edsa revolution. Former Sen. Jovito Salonga, the first post-Edsa Senate president, had the second longest stint as Senate chief at four years and four months.

During his Senate presidency, Drilon led the chamber in enacting several landmark laws, a number of them designed to help propel the country's economy.

Among the vital legislation enacted during Drilon's term as Senate President were the Anti-Money Laundering Act, Special Purpose Vehicles Act, General Banking Law, E-Commerce Law, Dual Citizenship Act, Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

Overseas voting

Overseas Absentee Voting Act, the Abolition of the Death Penalty Law, Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections Act, Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, Government Procurement Reform Act, Philippine Clean Water Act, Alternative Dispute Resolution Act, Amendments to the VAT Law, the Juvenile Justice System Act and the Act Promoting the Welfare of the AFP by Increasing the Rate of Base Pay of its Officers and Enlist-

9th president

After his election, Villar will take his oath as the 9th post-Edsa Senate president in the presence of his family.

A photo session of senators will then follow at the plenary hall.

In the afternoon, the senators will join members of the House of Representatives at the Batasan Pambansa for a joint session of Congress to hear the Stare-of-the-Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo.



A father carries his daughter on his shoulders while crossing the Lidong river in Baranggay San Isidro, Sto. Domingo, Albay, Friday, unmindful of the danger posed by the Mayon volcano in the background.

Local execs helped GMA craft speech, says Bunye

By Christine Avendaño

THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS THAT President Macapagal-Arroyo will present on Monday will focus on "regional developments," much of the document having been drafted with the help of local government executives she consulted across the country.

This was Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's answer to a Pulse Asia survey that said one out of every four Filipinos does not believe the Sona will be "truthful."

The message that the President will deliver was based on wide consultations with leaders from provinces and cities across the country, local executives who are "knowledgeable" about the situation in their areas, said Bunye.

Asked whether the speech would focus more on economic rather than political matters, Bunye said: "I think there is a political undertone there. You can see the reliance on the local government units in regional development. This is a national-local partnership and you could see the trend of distributing the powers more to the countryside. So it's not

just economic but political in a sense."

The President visited several provinces last month to discuss plans for four so-called economic super regions on which the government will focus investment and development. She said at the time that she would include the inputs from these consultations in her Sona.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the Pulse Asia Survey actually showed a drop in the number of people who doubt the truthfulness of the Sona. This year, only 27 percent said they doubted the truthfulness of the Sona against last year's 45 percent, Defensor said.

He said the number of people who believe in the truthfulness of Ms Arroyo's Sona rose to 16 percent this year, from last year's 13 percent.

This showed that like other surveys on bunger and other problems, the President's ratings were improving, Defensor said.

Bunye said the President read the first draft of the Sona to the Cabinet last week. The speech lasted 32 minutes. Ms Arroyo was aiming for 40 to 45 minutes, be said. port from Christian Esquerra

Police place Metro Manila on full alert

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE PLACED THE NATION'S CAPITAL ON full alert at noon yesterday ahead of the President's Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address at the Batasan on Monday in the wake of threats from communist rebels to sow terror during the Sona.

"Effective 12:30 p.m. today, the entire Metro Manila police is placed under (ull alert," National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Vidal Querol said in a text message to reporters.

Querol told radio station dz8B that police have set up checkpoints in strategic areas where communist rebels were expected to sneak through on their way to Metro Manila

such as Batangas and Bulacan. He told dzBB that he has received intelligence information that some communist rebels would be coming from Mindoro, a known hot-bed of New People's Army rebels.

According to Querol, he has alerted the Batangas Police to watch out for these Mindoro-based rebeis who could be planning to enter Metro Manila through the Batangas port. The other entry point is Bulacan, he

The Metro Manila Police had originally planned to raise the full alert on Sunday, the eve of Ms Arroyo's state address.

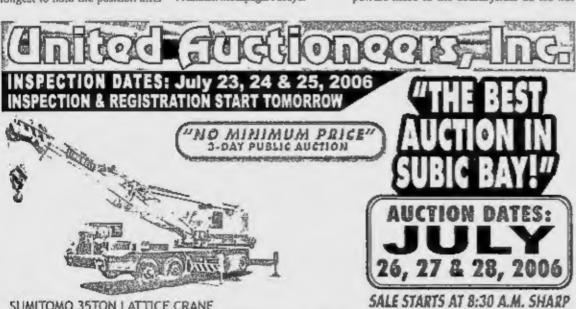
The entire Metro Manila would virtually become a fortified territory ahead of the Sona on Monday with the deployment of some 16,000 cops and soldiers to ensure peace and

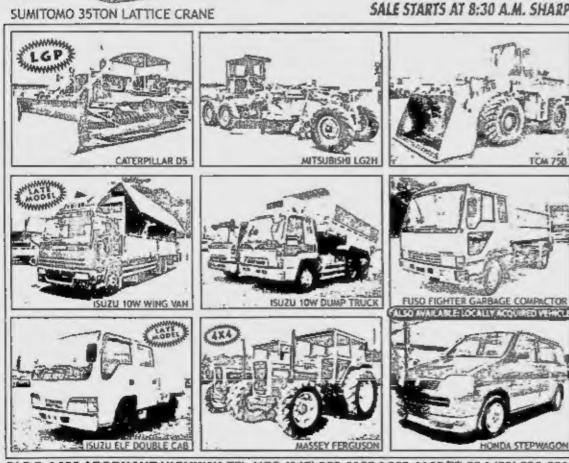
At least half of this number will be tasked to secure the Batasan complex and the roads leading to it where protesters are expected to con-

Others will be assigned to secure rail stations, shopping malls, banks and other public places.

Querol also ordered his men to carry out sweeps in "known criminal lairs." He did not, however, identify these areas.

But militant groups claimed that the police were using the alleged NPA plot as an excuse to harass their canks.





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President facing skeptical nation, say militant lawmakers

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL BE facing a skeptical nation when she reports on the state of the nation on Monday, militant lawmakers said yesterday.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said the President was "facing another crisis of credibility at her upcoming State of the Nation Address in light of public polls indicating that nearly one out of every two Filipinos believe that her previous Sona's have been deviant from the truth."

Beltran, who is under hospital arrest while awaiting trial for the Feb. 24 alleged Left-Right conspiracy to grab power, cited a recent Pulse Asia survey showing that almost 27 percent of respondents believed that Ms Arroyo's Sona this year would not be truthful.

"She can harp about her development plans and so-called achievements, but these will not be helieved ... the people will be able to discern social truth according to how they have directly experienced it," Beltran said in a statement.

However, House Majority Leader Prospero C. Nograles belittled the survey, saying there could be bias even in the way the poll questions are presented so that their outcome does

not necessarily reflect the sentiments of the people or the majority.

Nograles expects the President to deliver a speech that would focus mainly on legislative actions to address the energy crisis and impending crisis in the Middle East, and her administration's desire for increased government investment in developing the regions outside of Metro Manila and press for more meaningful reforms through Charter change.

"We defer to what the Executive would want in the same manner the Executive would want. They are the ones who execute the law. We just wait for what the administration wants," Nograles said.

in Tacloban City, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulia said the President would talk about the good things her administration had supposedly done and not about the real issues confronting the country.

"She will likely misinform. She will say everything is rosy in the Philippines, that she has been doing extremely well and that we have no probterns," Escudero said in Filipino. Michael Lim Ubac and Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

DepEd tells teachers, students not to go out on the streets

By Alcuin Papa

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS REminded teachers and students that Monday has not been declared a holiday and that they were expected to stay inside the classrooms rather than go our on the streets during the State of the Nation Address (Sona) of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on July 24.

With the reminder, acting Secretary Pe Hidalgo has not flat out and said that teachers and students were banned from joining anti-GMA rallies during the Sona. But she felt compelled to make the statement after several militant teachers and students groups reportedly vowed to lead protests on Monday.

Hidalgo said that the department was not curtailing the rights of students and teachers. She asserted that it was the responsibility of teachers to teach classes on that day and students to be present inside classrooms to learn.

During her first month as DepEd Officer-in-

Charge, Hidalgo drew criticism from teachers and students after she issued a directive saying that the safety of students might be compromised if they joined rallies.

"We have seen on television how violent rallies can become and we, as educators, must ensure the safety of our young students. I'm sure the parents feel the same way," Hidalgo had earlier said.

Hidalgo added that the number of school days was already too few to ensure proper learning and that disruptions were not desirable. She called attention to a previous memorandum issued early this year where DepEd encouraged co-curricular activities to be held outside regular school hours.

Undersecretary for Regional Operations Ramon C. Bacani also earlier clarified that the DepEd was not prohibiting teachers and school officials from joining political rallies as long as they did so out of their own volition, beyond official school hours and without forcing students to join them.

PRC asked to suspend oath-taking of nurses

Resolve leakage issue first, says UST

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE UNIVERSITY OF STO, TOMAS COLLEGE OF Nursing yesterday called on the Professional Regulatory Commission to suspend the oath-taking of those who passed the 2006 licensure examination for nurses while the controversy over the exam. question leakage remains unresolved.

In an open letter, UST College of Nursing representatives said they were concerned about the leakage and about the PRC's decision to release the results in "subsequent haste" and without consulting with the concerned parties because it tended to cast the exam and the ones who passed it in a negative light.

"This action raises more doubts not only on the integrity of our licensure examination but also on the quality of our nursing graduates. More specifically, this action tarnishes the image of all the nursing graduates who took the licensure examination this year," the letter said.

PRC chair Leonor Rosero said she would have to consult with the members of commission and weigh the advisability of having the nursing graduates retake the exam.

The PRC has decided to let the 17,000 nursing graduates who passed the recent board exam take their oath on Aug. 22, despite the still unresolved controversy over allegations that some of the test questions had been leaked in the Baguio City exams that were administered last June 28.

It released the results of the exams, claiming the suspected leakage did not affect the overall result and that the integrity of the ex-

The letter's signatories included the college's assistant dean Susan Maravilla, UST Nursing Alumni Association treasurer Thelma Abelardo, Nursing Student Council public relations officer Alfredo Payawan and Faculty Association president Rene Tadle, who read the letter about during a forum at the Ambassador Hotel.

Rosero said she was willing to hold a dialogue with the parties concerned and explain to them how the commission computed the scores of the passing graduates.

Nursing graduates in Baguio City complained that examination questions covering Tests III and V were allegedly leaked to the R.A. Gapuz Review Center in that city. The center has denied involvement in any leakage.

The PRC has since administratively charged two PRC commissioners and also asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the matter.

The PRC said that in computing the scores of the exam-takers, it excluded about 20 test questions in Test III that appeared in the allegedly leaked documents and "toned down" the weight of another questions in Test V to 10 percent from 20 percent instead of totally deleting the entire set.

The UST petitioners, however, said the nullified portions of the mursing exam were crucial to the exercise of the profession. It said allowing those who were declared to have passed the exam to practice their profession could pose a risk to future patients.

RP still top supplier of nurses to US

THE PHILIPPINES REMAINS THE TOP SUP- counted for seven percent of the 89,140 firstplier of nurses to the United States.

But Trade Union Congress of the Philippines general secretary Ernesto Herrera said the Indians, South Koreans, Canadians and Cubans have emerged as the Filipinos' chief rivals in the American nursing market.

Herrera cited statistics from the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing which placed the Philippines as America's number one supplier of foreign nurses.

NCSBN said a total of 6,171 nurses educated in the Philippines took the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for the first time from January to June this year. They actime takers of the NCLEX during the period.

The NCLEX is the final step in the muse licensure process in the US. The number of NCLEX examinees is "a good indicator" of how many US as well as foreign nursing graduates are trying to enter the profession in that country according to Herrera.

NCSBN data show that from January to June this year, a total of 1,864 nurses educated in India took the NCLEX, while a total of 948 nurses trained in South Korea took the test.

Completing the top five countries with the most NCLEX takers in the six-month period were Canada and Cuba, with 504 and 260 examinees, respectively. Jerome Aning

Citibank announces winners of Reload promo

34 Citibank cardholders walk away with brand new cellular phones

Citibank, the country's largest credit card issuer, recently announced the winners of the Citibank Reload raffle promotion. The latest models of cellular phones were given away to thirty four cardholders who enrolled with Citibank Reload.

Giobe subscribers who won a Sony Ericsson K300i were Alexander Atienza, Michelle Doon, Endrica Ramos, Janice Ilagan, and Jocelyn Munlawin. Winning a Motorola C651 were also Globe subscribers Christopher Visaya, Menandro Laroza, Mildred Fundan, Jackeline Uy, Cris Miguel, Abeth Cortado, and Rose Calanog.

Smart subscribers who took home a Motorola C261 were Sharon Noel, Romel Mangune, Mary Ruth Buenaventura, Ma. Corazon Naz, Teofilo Garcia, Rosana Mohnani, Jennifer Neri, Elvira Villarino, Leonora Quitoriano, Wilfredo Hernandez, Cathy Valencia, and Warlito Noval.

Grand winners were Globe subscribers Kristine Idio, Marlon Ronabio, Timoteo Cataylo, Kris Manalaysay, and Pablo Rey Fuentes who each won a Nokia 6020. Walking away with a Motorola Razr V3 also in the grand draw were Smart subscribers Monalaida Era, Irene Asuncion, Analen Naredo, Alfredo Ramos, and Richard Cepeda.

The promotion allowed new and existing primary and supplementary Citibank cardholders who enrolled with Citibank Reload to automatically earn entries to the raffle, Each successful enrollment with at least a one-time usage qualified as a raffle entry for the weekly draw, where two brand-new cellular phones were given away.

With Citibank Reload, you can electronically load your pre-paid cellular phone just by sending a text message and charging the load to your Citibank credit card. To,enjoy this service, simply enroll your Citibank credit card by calling 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila and 234-9999 in Metro Cebu.

After your enrollment with CitiPhone, wait for a confirmation message from Citibank advising you of your RELOAD ID. From here, you can reload your own pre-paid cellular phone or the pre-paid cellular phone of family and friends at utmost convenience.

To reload your own cellphone, text CITILOAD<space><reload amount><space><reload ID> and send to 350 for SMART subscribers and 2201 for Globe subscribers. Wait for a text message confirming your reload.

You can likewise reload another party's phone. To do this, simply text CITILOAD<space><reload amount><space><reload ID><space><celiphone number> and wait for a text message confirming your reload.

Post-paid subscribers may also enroll in Citibank Reload to load the prepaid account of family

Available reload amounts are at P300, P500 or P1,000. Log on to www.citibank.com.ph or call the 24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 to know more about Citibank Reload.



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3-minute call bridges distance to Lebanon

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR THREE MINUTES-WHICH was the length of the free phone call-the 9,000 km that separated Carolina Biado from her daughter Melinda seemed to have vanished.

But the phone call wasn't enough. What Carolina wanted was to feel Melinda's embrace.

The Israeli-Lebanese war that has forced tens of thousands of foreigners to flee Beirut has wrought its anguish among Filipinos. It has separated mothers from daughters, wives from hus-

bands, and sisters from sisters.

"She said she is okay. But I'm still worried because anything could happen after we ended the call," Biado told the INOURER after yesterday's emotional phone call that reduced the 62-year-old mother to tears.

Melinda, a teacher and married to a French, rold her mother that there was nothing to worry about. But it did not comfort Bia-

"She's very far away. I will only be appeased when I see her here, safely home, where I can hug and feel her," she said.

Biado was among the hun- has kept her up late at night since bad thoughts and anxiety. dreds of relatives of OPWs who trooped to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Office in Pasay City yesterday to avail of the Libreng Tawag Center provided by the two giant telecommunication companies, Smart and

Fear remains

Nangangamote ba sa school ang anak mo?

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LONG-TERM MEMORY

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EFFECTS OF AGING

AND FORGETFULNESS

IMPROVE CONCENTRATION

ALLEVIATE ARSENT-ANNIDEDNESS

REDUCE ANXIETY AND STRESS

DECREASE SENILITY AND THE

MAINTAIN GENERAL WELL-BEING

The free call only highlighted the vast distance that separated Filinino families.

Although Biado was able to talk to her daughter, she still couldn't shake off the fear that the bombings in Lebanon now on its 11th day.

The anxiety of the relatives who waited for their turn on the cell phones provided by the two companies was evident in their blank stares and fidgety hands.

Once on the phone, they talked impulsively, asking their loved ones about their situation and ticking off last minute instructions on where to seek refuge. They did not waste any second of their precious three-minute free cell.

Others, meanwhile, gathered at a lounge on the ground floor where a television

switched on to CNN. There, as they waited another few hours to attempt another call to their loved ones, they talked in whispers and hushed tones, swapping the latest news they heard about Lebanon, either from their rela-

vision. Some nervously pored over maps of Lebanon, Syria and Israel that Owwa had posted on the lounge area, where Biado chose to stay the whole afternoon.

She said she didn't

want to go home on-

ly to be haunted by

tives or from the

newspapers or tele-

to bring our relatives back home. It's not very comforting. Waiting is painful," she said. Arnold Almonte's hands trem-

bled after his conversation with

Theresa Mosquito said she at-

tempted to call her 22-year-old

sister working as a domestic

helper in Jounieh, several kilo-

meters away from Beirut, four

times but the phone just kept on

know that she's okay," Mosquito

said. She also couldn't hide her

frustration with the government.

They said they will try their best

"I just want to hear her voice to

his wife, Marifel. He said his wife was trapped with her employer in a condominium, just a walking distance from the Beirut bombardment.

His wife couldn't run to the Church of the Miraculous Medal or to the St. Joseph Church at the Achrafieh district-the designated evacuation centers for Filipinos-because all roads had been ravaged by the war,

Escape from employers

Almonte said his wife went to the Philippine Embassy in Beirut the other day to seek help, only to find out that it was already closed.

"Don't give up and be strong. You will get home, I will wait for you here," Almonte told his wife, who was apparently losing hope of escaping the war.

He also told her to go to the evacuation centers immediately even without her passport or money.

Yesterday was supposedly

Marifel's first year in Lebanon, said her sister, Shiela.

Based on the accounts of relatives of the Filipinos in Lebanon, fleeing the war was difficult. But escaping their employers was yet another hurdle to sur-

'I'm from Philippines'

Nelsa Dollison was aimost shouting at her cousin's Lebanese employer on the phone.

"I want to speak to Merlinda Canox I am calling from the Philippines," she said.

But after a few minutes, the line went dead. The Lebanese employer did not pick up the phone when Dollison called a third time.

During their first conversation, her cousin said she wanted to go home. "But her employer doesn't want her to. Maybe that's why nobody is answering the phone anymore," Dollison said.

Frightened by bombs

Angeles Achapero said her sister was not allowed to return to the Philippines by her employer.

"She was really crying and pleading when we talked to her. She really wants to go home now because she's scared of the bombs," Achapero said.

The employer sent her other sister who was working in Kuwait a message saying: "Don't worry. Your sister is safe with us. Everything is okay."

"To us it's not. They don't feel our fear because it's not them who are away from their families," said Achapero.

Drilon, priest in Beirut

should be used to assist those wanting to escape the war and go home.

Advincula said a lukewarm government response would be unacceptable to other nationalities.

"In other countries, it's the government that is scared of its citizens. They don't want to be accused by their citizens of not helping them. Whatever happens, they are the responsibility of their governments," the priest said.

'Modern-day heroes'

It's a different story altogether with Filipinos, he said.

He said that in other countries, citizens could sue their governments but it was not in the nature of Filipinos to file suits against their government and seek damages.

And to think that the OFWs have been hailed in their country as "modern-day heroes" for keeping the country's economy afloat.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, for his part, deplored that the P150 million allocated by Ms Arroyo to evacuate the Pilipinos was "woefully inadequate."

He said the amount would only cover 1,500 of the thousands of OFWs caught in the

"The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration currently has cash reserves amounting to a whopping P7.6 billion but Malacañang allocated only P150 million which can cover the evacuation of only 1,500 workers," Drilon

Advinculs said that at the relocation center, someone told him that the government spent a lot of money to secure the release of truck driver Angelo de la Cruz from his Iraqi kidnappers.

There was no accusatory tone in Advincula's voice. He, in fact, stressed that the Philippine Embassy's staff and labor officers had been extending all possible help to the strand-

Asked what were the OFWs' immediate needs from the government, Advincula said: "Nothing much, just the basic necessities."

A long war?

He said several of them were nearly penni-

One OFW was literally abandoned by her employer at the doorstep of their condominium. Fortunately, the worker, a young woman in her 20s and a first time domestic worker, managed to find the relocation center by herself.

"The way I see it, it would take a long time before Beirut recovers from this war. What will happen if they stay?" said Advincula, who

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page A7-"Ombudsman insists it can probe Comelec execs"-misspelled the first name of the secretary of the Department of Science and Technology. The science and technology secretary's name is Estrella-not Celia-Alabastro.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippins Daily Inquirer, PDI Building,

Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. B97-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph. Complaints about lock of fairness or objec-tivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvo-cate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342. has been in Lebanon for nine years and witnessed the tail end of the country's civil war in the 1990s.

Some were luckier than others because their employers brought them along when they left for Europe and the United States at the start of the conflict, Advincula said.

There are an estimated 34,000 OFWs in Lebanon, most of whom working as domestic helpers in Beirut.

Second batch

A second batch of OFWs left Beirut for Damascus by bus at around 3 p.m. (Manila time), according to the Department of For-The latest evacuees totaling 106 were to

join the 188 OFWs (not 192, as earlier reported) who made up the first group that left for Syria on Thursday, special envoy Roy Cimatu Officials planned to have both groups-to-

taling 294 OFWs-on board an Emirates Airline's Lockheed 11 plane bound for Manila and expected to arrive at 1 p.m. today.

As of yesterday, at least 246 OFWs remained sheltered at the St. Vincent Lodging House inside the church compound, according to Walter Salmigo, chargé d'affaires of the embassy.

1,200 waiting

Some 1,200 more Filipinos have registered with the mission to be on the next trips out of the Lebanese capital.

Salmigo maintained that violence in Lebanon remained "localized" and that not all Filipino workers there could be considered endangered by Israeli attacks.

In times of trouble, the Philippine government has managed to extend a helping hand to others. Thailand had sought its assistance in evacuating 105 Thai nationals in Beirut and the DFA instructed the embassy to count among its "priorities" the accommodation of this request from Bangkok.

Vice President Noli de Castro said alert level 3 remained in effect and that President Macapagal-Arroyo had directed the DFA to ensure the evacuation of everyone if the worst came to the worst.

"It is still voluntary evacuation in Lebanon and our officials are making sure that those who have opted to stay are safe with their employers," De Castro said.

In a releconference, Cimaru told De Castro that he himself took the 11-hour bus trip from Damascus to Beirut and that it was safe, although there was some delay at the border because of the many evacuees fleeing Lebanon.

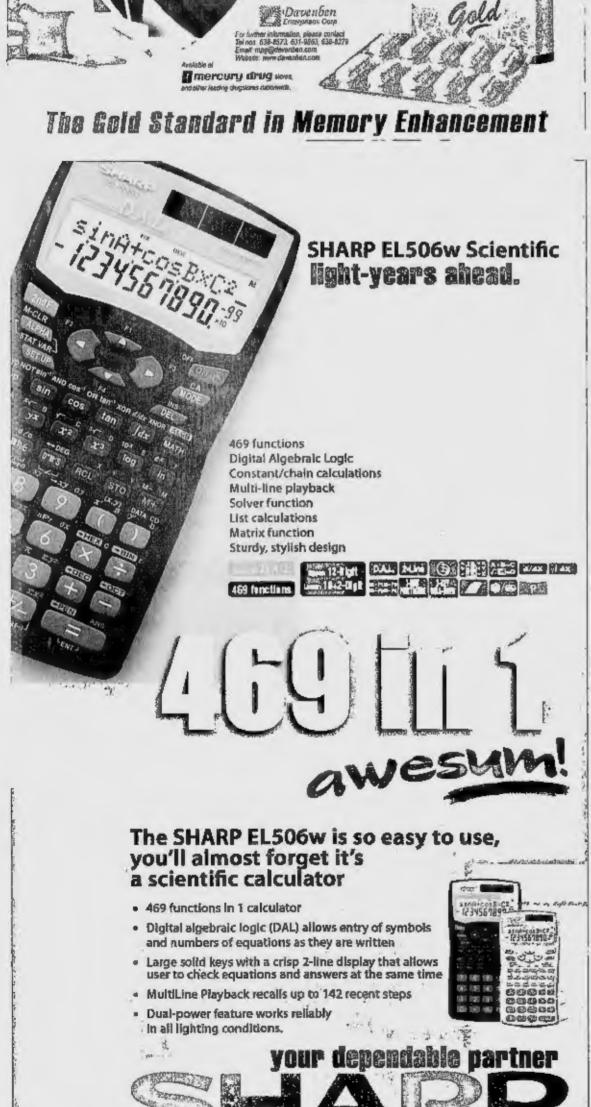
De Castro also said that the United States, United Kingdom and France had agreed to help the OFWs in case the war escalated.

Gov't 'stingy'

The problem is there are over 30,000 Filipinos who are in harm's way in Lebanon. The government response to this Lebanon crisis is woefully inadequate," Drilon said.

Drilon urged Malacañang not to be "stingy" in the use of Owwa funds, noting that the agency was created precisely to assist OFWs.

During happy times, this government sings high praises to our OFWs, calling them modern-day heroes, because their remittances regularly keep our economy afloat. But during times of crisis and our workers need immediate assistance, Malacañang suddenly turns stingy with Owwa funds," he said. With reports from Volt Contreras, Philip Tubeza, Cynthia D. Balana, Charlie C. Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau



Give your maids a rest, Human Rights Watch urges Singapore

SINGAPORE—SINGAPORE SHOULD make it mandatory for employers to give foreign maids a weekly day off, Human Rights Watch said Friday, denouncing a new non-binding contract that promotes just one day off a month for domestic helpers.

The contract's proponents said it was designed to protect maids from abuse calling it "a step in the right direction." Under current legislation, Singapore's employers are not obliged to give maids any free time.

The agreement stipulates that employers of foreign maids must give their domestic workers at least one rest day a month or compensate them with cash.

But US-based Human Rights Watch said the contract, which is not legislation, was inadequate because maids should be given a weekly day off. They will continue to be excluded from basic protections under the country's main labor laws, it added. "Domestic workers need regular days off to rest, to escape the isolation at work and sometimes to report abuse," Nisha Varia, a senior researcher in Human Rights Watch's women's rights division, was quoted as saying in a statement on the group's Web site.

"It's shocking that an advanced economy like Singapore does not guarantee domestic workers a weekly day off," Varia said.

The clause offering employers the op-

tion of providing a day off or paying extra is liable to be abused by employers because of the "imbalance of power between employers and domestic workers," the statement added.

The contract was unveiled Thursday by two watchdog groups that oversee employment terms for maids.

"What we've done is actually an improvement from the current practice ... You have to understand employers have

been having these kinds of practices for more than a decade," said Gordon La Paber, president of the Association of Employment Agencies Singapore, referring to the practice of giving no days offi

ring to the practice of giving no days offi Maid agencies must implement the new contract by Sept. 15.

About 150,000 maids, mostly from Indonesia and the Philippines, are employed in Singapore, a wealthy Southeast Asian city-state. AP

GOODBYE MILLIONS

For failing to pay docket fees, Marcoses lose recovery case

By Armand N. Nocum

FOR FAILING TO PAY P1.3 MILLION IN docker fees, the heirs of the late dictator Perdinand Marcos lost their chance to pursue their claim to recover hundreds of millions of pesos worth of shares of the Eastern Telecommunications Phil. Inc. from an alleged Marcos crony, the late Roberto S. Benedicto.

The Supreme Court yesterday denied with finality a petition of the Marcos heirs to nullify a 1999 Sandiganbayan resolution dismissing the recovery case that the Marcoses filed against Benedicto for their "failure or refusal" to pay the correct amount of docket fees.

When they filed the recovery case in 1998, the Marcos heirs paid a filing fee of P4,850, but failed to pay the remaining P1.3 million in docket fees as computed by the court then.

The Marcoses filed the case after Benedicto entered into a compromise agreement with the Presidential Commission on Good Government surrendering 51 percent of his equity in the ETPI, consisting of 2.7 million shares of stock, equivalent to 10.2 percent of the ETPI's total capital stock.

The shares being claimed by the Marcos heirs were then worth P100 each, or about P265.2 million, but are worth much more to-

In a decision penned by Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno, the court cited legal jurisprudence showing that "parties filing civil actions before the Sandiganbayan are liable to pay the required docket fees,"

"The rule is clear. It is not simply the filing of the appropriate initiatory pleading, but al-

so the payment of the prescribed docket fee, that vests the trial court with jurisdiction over the subject matter or nature of the action," the court said.

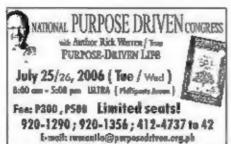
The court noted that the Marcoses filed numerous motions to extend the deadline for filing their reply to the Sandiganbayan resolution, but did nothing about complying with the court order to pay the docket fees.

As a result, the high court said the 10-year prescriptive period for filing a petition elapsed.

The Marcoses had "clearly slept on their rights," it said.

Aside from the 10.2 percent block of shares from the settlement with Benedicto, the PCGG sequestered another 22.3 percent stake of ETPI from Marcos associates Manuel Nieto and Tomas Africa.

ETPI, the country's oldest phone company formerly owned by the UK-based Cable & Wireless, is now controlled by Roberto Ongpin, Marcos' former trade secretary, through his ISM Communications Corp. Smart Communications owns 9.8 percent of the firm.







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As the human need to stay constantly in touch with one another grows stronger, Digitel grows ever larger. After its acquisition in 1993 by JG Summit, Digitel constructed a fully digital backbone transmission system through North and South Luzon to help bring voice communication innovations to the countryside, making it the second largest fixed line provider in the country. DigitelOne, its data division, gives consumers access to high-speed transmission and internet services.

This expansion continued with the launch of Digitel's wireless arm. Sun Cellular, its 24/7 Unlimited Service, which allows unlimited intra-network calls and SMS, has had a great impact on tariff charges in the country and redefined consumer usage practices. This was soon followed by even more groundbreaking promotions. like 24/7 Text Unlimited and Daylite Call & Text Unlimited. Other value-added services include Mobile Mail (MMail), which gives subscribers constant email access, and The IDD Top 10, which offers US\$0.10 per minute calls to the US, China, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Guarn and Macau.

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Esperon: Southcom splits, one to go after NPA, other for Abu

agement and control," Ms Azrovo said during the change of command ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo.

Implemented in August

"Southcom is characterized by the atrong presence of secessionist movements, which are now amder control, but we have some terrorists that we have to address. (We will divide Southcom) for Better control and to put more focus in the fight against the communist terrorists in the eastern part of Mindanao," Esperon said.

"One unified command will cover the western area, and then another area will focus on the cominunist terrorists ... so [the split] "could be east and west," he added.

Esperon said Southcom's split might be implemented by the first week of August.

Esperon said he would make "some redeployment" of troops from other parts of the country to Mindanao to fill up the new area command. He did not say how many troops would be involved.

Unified commands

The Southcom is the biggest of the six unified commands in the

The others are Northern Luzon Command (Noicom) based in Tar-Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Quezon; National Capital Region Command (NCR-Com) based in Camp Africaldo; Central Command (Cencom) based in Cebu; and Western Command (Wescom) based in Palawan.

Southcom is currently beaded by Lt. Gen. Gabriel Habacon.

Esperon announced that Nolcom chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, who would replace him as Army chief, would be replaced by Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, former head of the Army's 8th Infantry Division.

Solcom chief Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, who will retire on July 31, will be replaced by Army 2nd ID chief Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano.

Cencom chief Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, who will retire on Sept. 17, will be replaced by Army 4th ID chief Maj. Gen. Cardozo Luna.

Glorious hour

Unable to contain his excitement on assuming the highest military post, Esperon devoted nearly haif of his speech to thanking guests who came to Camp Aguinaldo to see him in his most glorious hour.

For the first 10 minutes of his speech, the former Army chief acknowledged a wide range of wellwishers—from the President to his townmater, from his predecessor Senga to his high school

As his acknowledgments went on and on, some members of the audience, including Ms Arroyo, began to smile to themselves.

Esperon, who usually assumes a stern demeanor before the media, grinned and acted like a party host throughout his long thank you's.

It started with a bark

But he was not as relaxed at

Before he started his speech, and in keeping with protocol, Esperon ordered AFP Chief Sergeant Major Mario Gabriel ro raise his personal flag.

The order however came out in a bark, prompting chuckles from SOME QUESTS.

Reading from a prepared speech, Esperon thanked the VIPs first, starting with Ms Arroyo, then former President Fidel V Ramos, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Sen. Richard Gordon.

When it came to thanking the provincial governors who flew in from Mindanao for the occasion, Esperon looked behind him to look for his governor-friends among the audience.

He even thanked "the others who will be arriving."

He saw retired Gen. Jose Bello, head of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo), and thanked him as well.

He included his in-laws when he thanked his family. He also admowledged his townmates from his

hometown of Asingan, Pangasinan. Then he thanked a number of prominent businessmen from various business groups.

He went on to acknowledge former classmates from the Philippine Science High School, whom be asked to stand up, to the applause of the audience. Then be greeted his classmates in the Philippine Military Academy Class 1974, the foreign armed forces attache corps, the media and finally—the plain soldiers.

Settling down to business, Esperon vowed to defeat the communist insurgency, undertake rapid buildup of forces for the frontlines and look after soldiers' welfare.

Later, when Ms Arroyo in her speech publicly plaised her former Presidential Security Group commander, Esperon was back to his giddy self.

Ms Arroyo acknowledged Esperon as the first PSG commander who became the AFP chief of staff. The departing Senga stoically listened to the President's expression of thanks to him for rejecting overtures by rebel officers to lead the military in withdrawing support from her last February.

"I give General Senga credit for containing, then neutralizing, and finally demolishing the infamous Pebruary coup," said Ms Arroyo. Senga gave a small nod.

Esperon also acknowledged Senga's actions during the Feb. 24 attempted coup.

'We'll destroy NPA'

"Under your leadership, you made sure that destabilizers will not sucreed," Esperon said, addressing his predecessor.

Ms Arroyo exuded with confidence when she spoke about Esperon as her new military chief.

With Jun at the helm ... we shall destroy the armed capability of the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army), remove their logistics bases and dismantle their support networks." With a report from Christine Q. Avendaño

Philippine flag protects Pinoys in East Timor

rest after the government fired 40 percent of its soldiers from the military, and soon renegade soldiers and government troops were engaged in violent clashes.

Layon said the attack was most likely already a "summation of the paranoia" that gripped Dili, the only place in East Timor where the police organization collapsed.

"I'm not so familiar with the conflict but we all felt that our efforts imploded and went to waste

in Dili," Layon said, "Our fellow Filipinos kept on calling us for advice. We told them to just stay put in their homes. But then, some buildings and homes were being burned

down," Layon said. The Filipinos found refuge and protection in a Philippine symbol often taken for granted-the

respected the "Everybody Philippine flag there. They would not assack a home or a vehicle that had a flag on it," Layon said.

"Filipinos are liked by everybody in East Timor," he said.

Attack on UN convoy

On the day they were attacked, Layon said the UN team had negotiated for a ceasefire between the forces fighting right outside

the police headquarters. There were five Filipinos trapped there, which was why I

had to go," Layon said. They collected the firearms of some 80 police officers and

placed these in a UN car. Layon was in front of the convoy, together with a military official, taking photographs of the

event as it unfolded. On the way to headquarters, a

soldier on the road recognized one of the police officers in Layon's group, shot him, and it was then that all bell broke loose.

Lucky flak jacket

Layon said he was lucky that his flak jacket protected him from shrapnel. A bullet hit him where his flak jacket ended.

Someone later rold me that the shooting stopped only after ! stood up and shouted 'Cease-

He returned to Manila on Thursday night, following a medical repatriation.

'Waste of life'

Layon told the Incurrent hat he cried over the "waste of life" that he saw in Dili.

It happened a few weeks after the incident, during a TV interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC).

He was asked to recount what had happened that bloody afternoon of May 25, and soon after, he felt tears running down his

"It was just the waste of life," Layon said, explaining the tears. "Just the waste of life."

Brains splatter

He still vividly remembers the horrifying some of the attack, made eerie by the silence that surrounded them after the at-

"There were brains splattered on the car, on the ground. You could hear mouning. One was waving his hand as if asking for help. It was a very morbid scene. Everyone was quiet. I felt everybody just wanted to cry," Layon said.

Shrapnel grazed his right temple. Layon said. But he also knew that

and a buller pierced his left hip.

But Layon managed to walk some 200 meters away from the scene before he was picked up and brought to the hospital.

He was later airlifted to the Darwin Private Hospital in Australia where be underwent major

The bullet that hit him had splintered into eight different pieces, damaging his intestines.

It was the first time in his more than 30 years as a military police that he was hit in an encounter.

He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1982, became part of the Police Constabulary, later the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Volunteered

He volunteered for UN work mainly for "economic reasons,"

his work could have far-reaching benefits for many people.

Before his UN assignment in Dili, he was the chief of police in Lucena City.

Layon recovered from his wounds in a week, and he surmised it was because he was physically fit and generally in good health, Layon said.

He said a UN official told him that on Aug. 20, the Philippines may send a 100-man humanitarian mission to East Timor. Would be volunteer again?

Options open

Layon said he is keeping his options open. He would also want to serve here in the Philippines,

And while he's deciding what to do next, he would be spending quality time with his wife, Rochelle, and their three children.





Gov't to implement nat'l ID system soonest, says GMA

By Christine O. Avendano

IT'S NOW ALL SYSTEMS GO.

After the Supreme Court gave the go-signal to its implementation, the government would now immediately push through with the adoption of a national identification system for all government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations.

"This paves the way for the full implementation of the National ID system which is a strategic lynchpin of both national security and social justice to secure our communities from terror and crime and at the same time, facilitate the delivery of basic services to the people," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday in a speech during the turnover of command ceremonies of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo.

The President thanked the Supreme Court for ruling with finality on the constitutionali-

ty of the national ID system the other day and asked the people to rally behind its implementation.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the national ID system would "eventually" be implemented nationwide.

Ms Arroyo, who signed Executive Order No. 420 in April 2005 seeking the adoption of a national ID system, said the country stood to gain from such system "in terms of political stability, economic growth and global competitiveness."

She said that she was aware of the issues being raised against the national ID system and assured that it "carries all the safeguards to protect the rights of every citizen under the law."

Former President Fidel V Ramos, who had pushed for a national ID system in the '90s, underscored the need for the government to expand the coverage of the national ID system.

"It should be countrywide for all, including teenagers and from the private sector," said Ramos, adding that with a national ID, "it shows that you're a member of that republic, of that democracy."

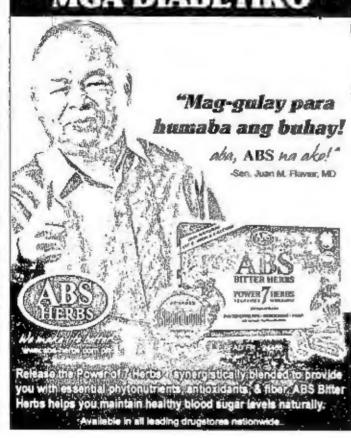
He suggested that the national ID system should cover people as young as 15 years of age because they are qualified to vote for the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the National Economic Coordinating Council would oversee the implementation of the national ID system.

Aside from government employees, the ID system would be implemented on those who would volunteer to be covered, he said.

Militants had strongly opposed the national ID system.

MGA DIABETIKO



Time to trade up.

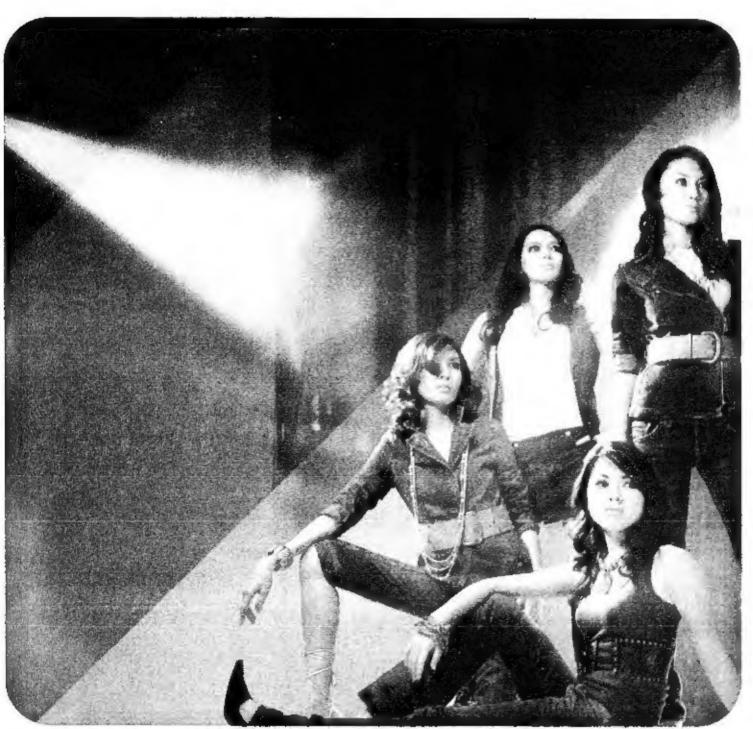


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SC: President has power to appoint CCP board

THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPheld the power of the President of the Philippines to appoint members of the board of trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

in a 32-page decision, the court struck down as unconstitutional two sections of Presidential Decree No. 15 on the CCP charter which state that vacancies in the board shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining trustees.

The case stemmed from the appointment of two sets of CCP board of trustees, called the Endriga group and the Rufino group in 1995 and 1998, respectively.

The first group, led by former CCP president Baltazar N. Endri-

then President Fidel V. Ramos. Their appointment papers stated their terms would last only until Dec. 31, 1998.

On Dec. 22, 1998, then Presidem Joseph Estrada wrote Endriga that the board was being replaced with seven new appointees, or by the so-called Rufino group.

The Endriga group questioned the appointment. It argued that sections 6 (b) and (c) of the CCP charter provided that vacancies in the board shall be filled by "a vote of a majority of the trustees" and that it is only when the CCP board is entirely vacant that the

President may fill such vacancies. They said that since their term

ga, was appointed in 1995 by was for four years and only one the power to appoint officers lowseat was vacant, Estrada could not appoint a new board.

> The Court of Appeals sustained their position and the Rufino group went up to the SC.

By 10-3 vote

In a decision penned by Justice Antonio T. Carpio and approved by a 10-3 vote, the high court held that the disputed sections are "freeconcilably inconsistent" with the Constitution.

The high court pointed out that the assailed provisions of PD 15 allow the remaining trustees to elect their fellow trustees. On the other hand, it said, Article VII. Sec. 16 of the Constitution grants

er in rank only to the President or to heads of departments, agencies, commissions, or boards.

The SC said this excludes appointment by an officer equal in

Presidential power

"Thus, insofar as it authorizes the trustees of the CCP Board to elect their co-trustees, Sections 6 (b) and (c) of PD 15 is unconstitutional," it said.

It further said that the two sections make the CCP trustees "the independent appointing power of their fellow trustees" and this conflicts with the President's power to appoint.

The court also ruled that the CCP falls under the executive branch, over which the President exercises control.

While the CCP charter vests the CCP with autonomy of policy and operation, it does not free the CCP from the President's control,

the court said. Pro and con

The ruling was concurred in by Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban and Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angeline Sandoval-Gutierrez, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Renato C. Corona, Romeo J. Callejo, Jz., Minita V. Chico-Nazario, Cancio C. Garcia and Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.

Justice Conchita Carpio Morales took no part, while Justice Adolfo S. Azcuna was on leave.

Senior Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, and Justices Leonardo A. Quisumbing and Dante O. Tinga dissented.

Tinga's view

Tinga argued that It is the CCP board which is vested with the power to appoint its members as provided for under the CCP charter.

Tinga said the majority ruling in effect expanded the scope of executive power by giving the President the power to remove officials whose terms have been fixed by law even prior to the cessation of their terms in office.

GMA keeping promise to 3 Sona kids, says Dinky Another militant

the Payatas garbage slide in 2000-the government has pretty much kept its promise to the Sona boys, said former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

Special kids

On the whole, they really are special kids," she told the Inquirer yesterday. "Had they not written the letters, they would not have gotten the educational and livelihood support that they're en-Joyling now."

Jayson, 15, and Erwin, 14, are antong the top at a Diliman school and thd Payatas High School, respectively, said Soliman, who last met the three boys shortly before she resigned in July

Jomer, 15, once saddled by family problems that were reflected on his grides, has been showing steady improvement in school, she said.

It helped that the Department of Social Welfare and Development extended regular counseling to Jomer's father, an erstwhile alcoholic reportedly showing symptoms of domestic violence, she

The volatile domestic situation supposedly explained why the Pabalans' livelihood, a modest gas stove repair shop in their community in Kasiglahan

Village, Rizal, never really prospered about a year now, Soliman still spoke despite seed money from the govern-

Counseling

"Counseling sessions focused not just on business but also on how to run a family," she said.

Fortunately for Jayson, Jomer and Erwin, bureaucratic discontinuity didn't hamper the help the government had promised to give them.

Soliman, now a vocal critic of Ms Arroyo, said her successor, Esperanza Cabral, has been quietly fulfilling the promise to the Sona boys, without that riotous publicity that generally goes with government programs.

To this day, she said the government continues to shoulder the kids' educational expenses in a school of their choice, a commitment until they finish college.

They were among some 360 scholars from Payatas who were similarly victimized by the avalanche of trash on July 10, 2000. About 40 of them have already finished high school, Soliman said.

Seed money

On top of the educational assistance, each of the families of these children had also been granted a P10,000 seed money to begin livelihood, she said.

No longer part of the government for

with natural affinity and concern about

For four years since 2001, she said she would meet them regularly whenever they went to the DSWD office for their monthly stipend. DSWD officials would also check on the lods' education before the start of the school year, she said.

The last time I saw them, they were all much bigger than I was," said the diminutive former Cabinet secretary.

Weight of media attention

Soliman described as a "very sensitive and intelligent boy" Jayson whose entire family was buried in the Payatas tragedy. More than a year ago, his grandmother Anadeta passed away, leaving the boy under the care of an aunt.

"He really has a bright future, probably as a technical person, say, an engineer," Soliman said.

Besides the tragedy, the Sona boys were probably similarly haunted by the prospect of collapsing under the weight of government, public and media expectation to succeed.

It's a dilemma that overwhelmed Mang Pandoy, the poster boy of poverty during the Ramos administration.

Despite monetary support and media attention, the old man and his family never really took off.

be trying a different tack to reverse their

Every year since the Sona of 2001, they have been gradually staying out of media's and politicians' prying eyes, preferring to concentrate on the serious job ahead.

Soliman said she had regrets for unnecessarily exposing them to feeting popularity in her capacity as Ms Arroyo's key Cabinet secretary.

Time was when the kids would be chased by television cameras in their school and home, on top of answers that appeared to dissect even the sensitive aspects of their tragic condition.

Hiding by malling

One time, she said reporters trailed the boys for three days straight. "Ingrawaraw sila! I was so mortified!" she re-

Later on, Soliman tried to correct the situation by "hiding" the kids from the media whenever Sona day approached.

"I didn't want them to be lionized by the media," she said. "What we would do before was to arrange an outing or a trip at the mall for them during Sona."

This year, there was no telling if the boys would remain untracked. But should they refuse a media interview or photo shoot, bet they simply want to mind a more serious business.

Jayson, Jomer and Erwin appeared to Shot in Isabela

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE BLOOD OF LEFTIST LEADER MADONNA Castillo had barely dried up when another militant found himself fighting for his life in Isabela province yesterday.

Benjamin Luzano, 52, a member of the leftleaning Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and a barangay official was shot and wounded around 3 p.m. at a market in Ilagan town, the KMP said.

The report could not be immediately verified at press time.

"Madonna's (body) has gone back home. but another KMP member has been attacked," Carl Ala, KMP spokesperson, said in a text message to the Inquirea.

Same modus operandi

Luzano is now at the Ilagan provincial hospital, Ala said. "He is in critical condition and needs type O blood," Ala said.

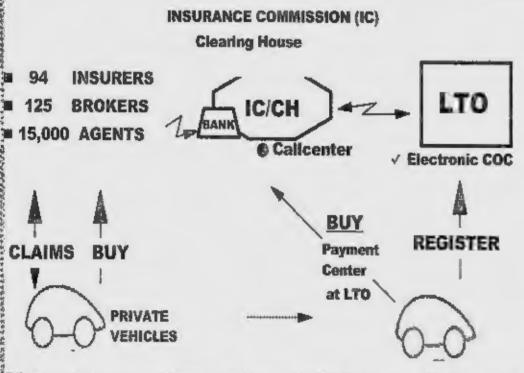
Ala said it appeared that the same modus operandi used on Castillo, secretary general of Anakpawis-Isabela and Danggayan Dagiti Mannalon iti Isabela-Echague, was employed against Luzano.

Castillo was about to attend her classes at the Isabela State University when she was shot by two men on Thursday morning. She died 11 hours later at a local hos-

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Mike A coming home Sunday

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL ARROYO to the US to belp his fellow Rotarian former is scheduled to return to Manila tomorrow from a "family vacation" in the United States, just in time to be at the side of President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Ad-

dress at the Batasang Pambansa on Monday. Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the First Gentleman's return should allow him to clear speculations that he went Miguel Arroyo, and family.

agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante who has been under detention in Los Angeles by US Immigration officials for the last two weeks.

Arroyo's spokesperson Juris Soliman said the First Gentleman stayed the whole time in San Francisco with eldest son, Rep. Juan

Artist Boy Togonon writes '30' at 55

ROMEO "BOY" TOGONON, ONE OF THE country's top editorial cartoonists, art director, publication designer and artist, died of heart attack Thursday night. He was 55 years old.

"Boy Togs," as he is fondly called by colleagues and friends, had a prolific career after graduating with a Pine Arts degree from the University of Santo Tomas in 1971. He started his career with the now-defunct Daily Express publications where he rose to become art director.

Togonon is acknowledged for his skill not only as an editorial carroonist but as a publication designer. He was among the founding group that put up the former Daily Tribune after the EDSA 86 People Power uprising as art director cartoonist; then the Daily Globe where he served as art and production director and editorial cartoonist. This was followed by stints at the Manila Chronicle and The Sun-Star Manila.

At the time of his death, Togonon was editorial cartoonist of The Manila Times; director of the National Press Club; and director-public relations

officer of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, the national association for billiard sports.

He is survived by wife Sonia, aons "Ardie," Leonardo Prancesco Romeo "Franz" and Michaelangelo "Mickey," sister Sylvia and husband Wenceslao Sampayan, nieces, nephews and

other relatives. His remains lie in state at St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels along Sucat Road in Paraflaque and will be brought to the National Press Club of the Philippines for necrological services on July 27-28.

Approved Budget

Burial is on July 29 at the Manila Memorial



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (Reinsurance for PNOC-EDC's Fire and Allied Perils Policy) with Sabotage and Terrorism Cover

The GSIS-General Insurance Bids and Awards Committee (GIBAC), thru its Technical Working Group (PWG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies who are registered with the Government Electronic Procurement System (GEPS) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the renewal of reinsurance for the PNOC-EDC's Fire & Allsed Pexils Policy with Subotage & Terrorism Cover for a period of twelve months at September 1, 2006 at 00.01 A. M. Local Standard Time. Combined Sum Insured: P12,424,415,000.00

Issuance of Eligibility and Budding Documents			Pre-Bid Conference Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes	
July 24, 2005 - Aug. 1, 2006 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM GIBAC Secretariat OSVP-GIG, 5* Ftr, GSIS Bidg., Rooms Bivd.,				

: P 132,195,780.00

That as of bidding date, August 8, 2006, the premium quotation has support of 100% of the 60% reinstance. The market selected for the lead reinstater should have a ming equivalent, to a "very good financial strength" provided by a rating company accredited and acceptable to the insurance market industry as of Dec. 31, 2005 and with the rest of the reassurers having the same rating as the lend reinsmer or a mixing equivalent to a "good financial strength" provided by a rating company accredited and acceptable to the insurance market industry as of December 31, 2005, starching copies of confirmed placement of the reinsurers share on or before the bidding date.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be based to applicants upon filing of a Letter of latest to Apply and payment of a non-refundable bidding for of P10,000.00 in the form of Cash or Manager's check in favor

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bid, sufficiency of Bid Security, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, tales and regulations. Only applicants who paid bid foes shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Hid Conference and submit Bid proposals.

The GSIS thru the GliBAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or purt thereof, or wrive my defect contained therein and any accept the offer which it deems the lowest calculated responsive bid.

July 22, 2006, Passy City, Philippines.

GIBAC Chairman

July 22 & 28, 2006 (Note: This supersedes publication dated July 15, 2006)

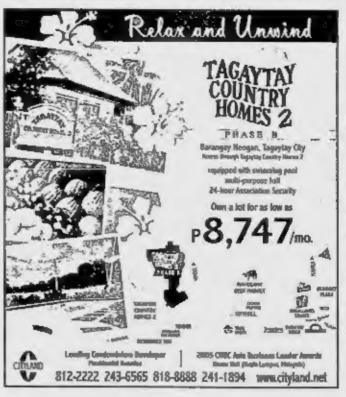
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SGV & CO. WILL CELEBRATE ITS to 2006 are invited to attend the 60th anniversary with a grand alumni homecoming on Monday, July 24, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road, Porbes Park, Makati City.

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cocktail reception.

For details, contact Sabrina Calayan at 891-0307 local 8526 or Mona Penix at 891-0307 local 7766, or email sgv60.alumni@ph.eycom/ www.sgvalumri.com.ph/alumnisgvasp.



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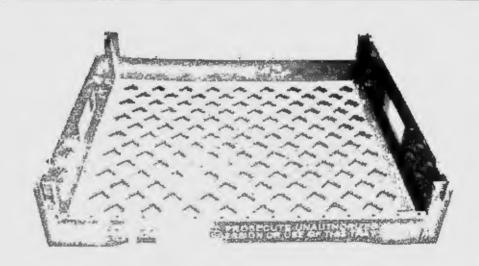
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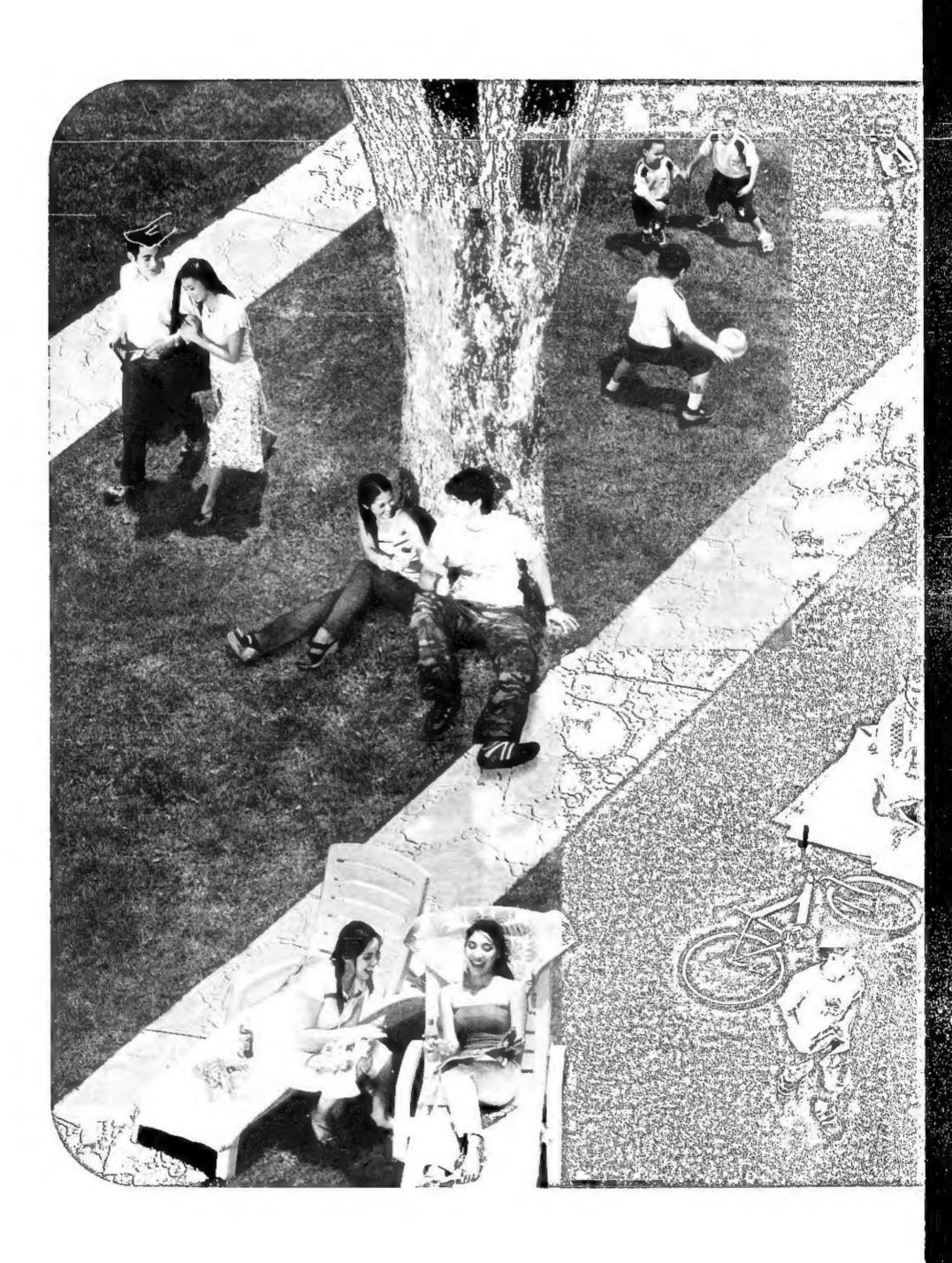
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Myopia

HE FIRST BATCH OF FILIPINO REFUGEES FROM Lebanon are expected in Manila today, a day later than originally expected. Their arrival marks the end of a horrifying journey overland from Beirut to Damascus and on to Manila on a chartered Emirates Airlines flight. It also marks the start of another journey that of starting life anew.

EDITORIAL

No one begrudges the \$300,000 spent by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to charter the

Emirates aircraft; if there's any criticism at all, it's that government has been remarkably sluggish in its response to the Lebanon crusis. The consequences of this are evident in everything from surely having to pay a premium to charter aircraft to fly into danger zones at short notice to Ambassador Roy Cimatu wending his lonely-and painfully slow-way to the front, to official policy being basically to ask everyone not to shoot and pray that the shooting stops

When Britain went to war against Argentina, the Cunard company, owner of the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth 2, had its flagship taken over and transformed into a troopship, as part of a deal dating back to the construction of the ship with the assistance of government funds The global exposure of Filipinos suggests that Congress look into the franchises of Filipino-owned airlines and shipping companies so that their fleet can be drafted for

immediate use in future emergencies.

Whatever unfolds in Lebanon, the unsatisfactory response of the government shows how easily past gains are dissipated. Past evacuations and responses to Middle East crises by our government were on the whole, swift, responsive and responsible. That the achievements haven't been institutionalized must be squarely confronted as a failure of leadership, policy and planning. While the initial confusion and lack of a sense of urgency seem to be finally giving way to a more concerted—even valiant-effort, too much ground has been lost. And in the effort to do something in Lebanon, the big picture's

being dangerously ignored

What is the big picture? Writing in The Arab News newspaper, INQ7.net columnist Rasheed Abou-Alsamh points out a couple of crucial things. There is something terribly wrong, in his opinion, over the government's reluctance to call for a mandatory evacuation of Filipinos in Lebanon. Reporting as he does from Jeddah, Abou-Aisumh can paint a graphic and dismaying picture of conditions in Beirut: "Gasoline is running out, electrical power is intermittent and cell phone networks have been knocked out by the Israeli air raids. Israel has bombed Lebanon into oblivion and it seems their campaign will continue for weeks, if not months, to come. A full scale invasion of southern Lebanon by Israel is highly likely in the next few weeks if they don't succeed in degrading Hezbollah's capabilities of she.ling Israel."

So far, there's only a trickle of Filipinos coming home, The majority, our government says, want to take their chances. The government has committed to respecting their wishes, but in doing so, it has allowed those Filspinos to stay in harm's way and made their rescue much more difficult when, as the Department of Foreign Affairs puts it, evacuation will become mandatory as house-to-

house fighting begins,

The attention being paid to Filipinos in Beirut shouldn't detract attention from other Filipinos in the war zone: those in Israel. Abou-Alsamh accuses the United Philippine Manpower Agencies to Israel Association of acting irresponsibly for saying "everything is normal" in the city of Haifa, the third largest Israeli city, even as it is being subjected to bombardment by Hezbollah. If the deployment of Filipino workers to Lebanon has been stopped, why is it still going on for Israel? And should conflict spread, what are the government's plans for the Filipinos in the entire Middle East? And God forbid we even contemplate a conflict closer to home, but it's government's job to plan for the unthinkable. We had hoped that security jitters over North Korea would lead to the drafting of contingency measures for the legions of Filipinos in Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong. But no such luck.

More frightening then than the emerging conflict in Lebanon is the short-sightedness, the myopia, of Philippine officialdom it has exposed.

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Where is the remote?

AS I EXPECTED, AT LEAST ONE READER expressed umbrage when I considered ad justable entertainers responsible for the and state of the nation (PDI, 6/17/06). He throws the biame instead on the law profession, which has never strutted on the cointe stage like some actor politicians. If that is the best he can do to defend his questionable colleagues, it deserves no more than this short dismissa.. So set me go now to less paltry things

I said sometime ago that in the United States more people voted for the American Idol than in the last presidential election, Not to be outdone, and in keeping with our mitative obsession, we are also preparing to choose our own Filipino Ido, for the nation's diversion. Many presumptuous "idols" are already rehearsing their hopeful talents for the

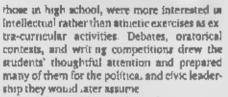
I do not brame them for this innocert ambition. It is far better than drug addiction or drag racing or graffiti scrawling I am just distressed that the pleasures of our young people have changed so drastically over the years, and mostly not for the better. Several generations ago, during a more pensive time, the youth had more serious purposes than superficial

During those vanished years, young men like Carlos P Romulo and his equally brilliant companions toured the United States as a debating team that bested their opponents in their own turf. Other Filipinos of their age were less interested as they are now in the enticements of the silver screen or what was then popularly called the "vod-a-vil" Their prince pal concern was the improvement of their minds as tools for the enhancement of their and, by extension, the country's future.

As late as during my time as an adolescent in

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



Even those with more bunted tatents were no sess determined to improve their intellectual capabilines. Not to be excellent, which was not within their reach, but to be merely compe tent to be able to help at least if not to lead Proof of this resolve was in the public libraries, which were frequented regularly by young readers untike now where similar conve niences are hardly visited and gather dust in

ateau of borrowers.

It was in this atmosphere of scholarly pursuits that young people then enriched their time. Wencesiao Vinzons and Arturo Tolentino, assisted by the beautiful Carmen Planas. formed the Young Ph lippines to challenge the dominant political parties then. Jose B. Laurel Jr. gained initial prominence in a famous interconegiate oratorical contest that featured formidable rivals. UP's Perdinand Marcos, JST's Diosdado Macapagai and UM's Rmmanuel Pelacz excelled in the bar examinations. Jose Garcia Villa was already recognized as the dove and the non of the young crop of Filipino writers in English. Renato Constantino the last century, college students, and even was yet to lead a new activism in the student hotshots and the Pinay Pie

arena at Padre Paura.

The youth fought heroically in Bataan and Corregidor and in the guerrilla fastnesses against the Japanese intruders. That spirit of resistance became equally defiant against a new kind of tyranny under martial law that was more pathetic and vicious because it was imposed by a Fibpino apon his own country. men. Hundreds if not thousands of young men and women, Filipinos all, perished not from alien brutality but at the hands of Filipino op-

But the youth were not daunted. Their indignation and courage resurrected the spirit of Rizal's time when he and his gallant competitota-Bonifacio, Emilio Jacinto, Fathers Burgos and Gomez, Aguinaido and a host of other pa triots in the prime of their youth-dared the enemies of their race, many to the death.

Rizal especially, with his lavish intellectual gifts, faced an enticing future he could have enjoyed to a ripe old age of serenity and respect, even from the Spanish despots. Instead, he chose martyrdom at the age of 35 and inapired a young generation of patriots to similar heroism. They were the answer to Padre Flo rentino's search for the youth of the land who would "dedicate their unocence, their idea ism, and their enthusiasm to the good of the

Save for a small admirable minority (like the Ten Outstanding Students of the Ph. ippine Alumni Community), the young men and women today are brand merry-makers without heed for the country's welfare but only for their own comfort. They also have their own questions but they are shallow and impertinent like "Where is the remote?" They don't care much about the mitiative or the Bill of Rights but know all about, also, the barketball

Gringo plays Pied Piper

THE JULY 15 AFFIDAVIT OF 1ST LT LAWrence San Juan must be added to the Lopez Report and the transcript of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's "withdrawal of support" video to get a better picture of the events leading to two national crises: the Oakwood "incident" and the Peb. 26 "standoff" (both euphernisms for fatied military coup attempts). I have copies of these documents only because the research team of the GMA TV show "Debate" that I co-host provided me with them, so one can only wish that in the same manner that the Garci tapes and their transcripts were posted in toto on the Internet, these too would be posted, for the public's benefit

Since last week's column dealt with the second and third documents, let us focus on the first (San Juan's affidavit). It makes for fascinating reading, because not only does it. give us a fly-on-the-wall sense of being a witness to the events but it also gives us good in sights into the major characters in San Juan's

recounting One of the more obvious conclusions that can be drawn from San Juan's narration is that Gringo Honasan was a major influence. in both these crises. He was the resurrected Pied Piper of Hamelin, playing on the idealism of young officers, exercising some kind of fatal attraction on them, using a mixture of stories and rituals (the fascination of a seeret club-boys will be boys) to inspire/brainwash them

Consider During San Juan's first meeting with Capt. Milo Maestrecampo (who asked for a one-on-one in Zamboanga City, where San Juan was stationed) in late 2002, the .at ter already mentioned Gringo's name, asking what San Juan thought of him. At their second meeting, also in Zamboanga, there were three other jumor officers present, obvious y also recruits of Maestrecampo-and this time, Gringo himself was present to make the pitch. Honasan gave them his version of what was behind the 1986, 1987 and 1989. "revolution" (another romanticized euphemism for coup attempts) and talked

Solita Collas-Monsod

about the need for reforms. The young officers were then asked if they were interested in fighting for the cause of reforms and genuine change. Guess what their answers would be?

The third meeting (all within the same month-it was hard sell time) was in Mania. This time, there were even more junior officers, all from PMA Classes '95 to '98, and cluding Navy Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes and James Layug. Again, Gringo was there, as was former Navy Capt Felix Turingan, an other participant in previous failed coups This is where Gringo introduced the rituals: use of code names (Gringo was "kuya"), oaths, prayers and finally the signing of names in blood. Not just pin-prick blood mind you, but blood drawn with a "tanto knife" or "shortened samural" used to inscribe a "K" in the left inner arm. And not an ordinary "K," mind you, it had to be in Abbata or ancient Fil pino script. The drama was further heightened at that point: Turingan arged Honasan not to demonstrate on himself, as he still had fresh wounds, and Honasan ignored the advice. When Honasan afted his arm to scrape out the K, lo and behold, there were several marks, some of them still fresh. How QA can you get?

But think of the effect of that combination of drame and indoctrination on impressionable (or guilfble) young minds. As I said, the Pied Piper of Hame.in, all over aga: n

To add insult to injury, Honasan was using (or so he said, according to San Juan) his pork barrel as a senator to finance the active ties of the group. "I would rather spend my pork barrel for you people na may magan-

dang hangarin para sa bansa, "San Juan quot ad him as saying. Patriotism being the last refuge of scoundrels comes to mind again

Gringo crops up again and again like a bad penny in the San Juan narration. His published "National Recovery Program" was used by the young officers as a recruitment "guide." He went to Oakwood (in 2003) to "dialogue" with the mutineers (giving the impression to many of us that that was the first time he would be talking to them). He attended another "ritual" in 2004 (again with Turingan, and also Jake Malajacan, althree being considered "elders"), although in these new rituals, the blood drawn was done by pinprick. There was a meeting in July 2005 and other subsequent meetings and rituals, where he presided if present, includng a "Grand Meeting" where he showed a film about Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, and pointed to similarities between the Venezuelan with the Philippine situa-

Gringo's last appearance in the San Juan narrative was in the fourth week of January 2006 (again with Turingan and Malajacan), where he is quoted as saying, "Bumibilis naang mga pangyayari, malapit na ito."

What does Gringo Honasan have to say about all this? The PCIJ interviewed h.m last December, and reports it in its blog: "He admirred involvement in only three-1986. 1987 and 1989-of the many that he said he was being blamed for. He also talked about how government has been linking him to the Oakwood muttny?

On the Oakwood mutiny, this is what he had to say "Let's bring to mind, for example, recently the 2003 Oakwood incident. Just because I talked to some officers because of the National Recovery Program which they actually drafted, ini-implicate ako. What is worst, nung mag-Oakwood incident, Maiacañang asked for my help. Ako naman, si gago, punta naman ako." In other words, com piete denial

Who do you believe?

tion. Open season na yan A futile attempt ake that, however, would only succeed in creating more instability in the nation, which is deplorable in the light of huge problems at home and grave world developments that directly affect us.

For instance, there's Mayon's eruption in a region that's still trying to cope with the physical and economic dislocations due to the earlier eruption of Bulusan. There's also the gargantuan headache--and expense--of getting 33,000 Pilipino oversens workers in Lebanon out of hazm's way. There's the prospect of a further spi-ral in oil prices in case of a prolonged Middle East crisis, If the wealthier nations are very worried about its repercussions to them, how much more vulnerable is an economy like ours?

These troubled times call for sobriety and unity among our people, but sadiy, all the op-position can think of is how to oust GMA. Let's sope patriotism and statesmanship will prevail among them.

Many countries, including the Philippines, have grappied with the problem of moving out their na tionals from Lebanon, in what's turning out to be one of the largest evacuations in recent times. The most powerful governments have marshaled various transport modes, with the United States even chartering cruse slops to ferry an estimated 25,000 citizens out of there. British destroyers have ferried British nationals, while the French have dispatched a huge helicopter carrier able to carry over 3,000 civilian passengers. The common



drop point is Cyprus, off the coast of Lebanon. The idea of using air and sea is to avoid the heavily bombarded Beirut-Damascus highway.

The Philippines has among the biggest num-ber of nationals in Lebanon, but unfortunately, also very limited resources for evacuating them. Our workers seem to have little choice but to exit by land to Syria. Our diplomats in the Middle East, using their creativity, have moved heaven and earth to begin the evacuation and the Department of Foreign Affairs deserves kudos for undertaking what seems like massion impossible.

Several things are clear. One is that not all the Pinoy workers in Lebanon want to be avacuated-the pay is irresistible for them. Secand, our government has to examine the situation in the Middle East and identify which areas ought to be stricken off the list of host countries. The way things are between Hezbolish and its sympathizers, and Israel, the crisis most likely won't blow over fast, since neither side seems willing to harken to UN Sucretary General Kofi Annan's call for a ceasefire.

With the third and last regular session of the 13th Congress opening on Monday, it's fitting to point out a positive development: the House had an unprecedented P190 million in savings for 2005, the second time it has successfully reduced costs. Two years ago, Speaker Jose de Venecia turned over P66 million to the national treasury as the House's contribution to the austerity and cost-cutting program of the government. Last month, JDV during a call on GMA, said the House's bigger savings and year were made possi-ble through a program of "austerity, cost-cutting and disciplined financial management," GMA, in turn, congratulated the House leadership for setting an example for other government agencies.

The House's hefty savings have to be appreciated in view of the fact that it has a far bigger membership than the Senate. It's more difficult to coax savings from a chamber with 236 members than from one with 23 members. The House savings should make citizens wonder, how much, if any, the Senate managed to save. For that matter, it would be a good idea for the national treasurer to disclose, as a public service, the savings made by government offices during the last fiscal year

Interestingly, JDV told GMA the House would allocate F100 million from these sayings to construct a new building in the Batasan complex, to accommodate the expanded membership of the House and their support staff. He said the rest would be used to help finance the computerization of the entire House operations, under the Speaker's program to modernize and usher it into the digital age

In justifying the construction of a new building, JDV said the Mitra Building, conceived in 1998 during his second term as Speaker, has accommodated all public hearings conducted by the House committees since its inauguration in 2002. But he said the available space is not adequate, and the House doesn't want to go back to its old practice of holding commitine hearings in expensive hotels.

Besides—and perhaps more important—said JDV there's also the "distinct possibility" that we would have a unicameral parliament, which would require accommodations for new members. From his explanation, it's evident that he is hoping that the House's vision of a unicameral parliament with an expanded membership will still materialize. And the President's Sona is ex pected to stoke that hope anew as she will report edly appeal and pledge to work for this shift. In this drive to change the Charter, she has the full support not only of the House majority but also the 1.5 million members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines

Tragedy in Biak na Bato

IN SEPTEMBER 2004, EIGHT PEOPLE, SEVEN of them children and teenagers, drowned in the Biak na Bato River in San Miguel, Bulacan, after flash floods swept them away while they were prenicking in the area

The reveiers had just attended a baptismal party and proceeded to Biak na Bato Park, a popular desting on for local tourists because of its natura, beauty and historical significance. When a sudden downgour sent water rushing down a denuded hils, onlookers said they warned the young people to get out of the river but were ignored The swimmers were swept away by the swollen waters, with some of the children found as far as 14 km from where they were swimming

"It took us three days to recover the bodies," re-calls Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz, "The tragedy really affected me because as a mother, I deeply fest the loss of these children."

It also served as an "eye-opener" for the governor regarding the environmental crisis that had beset the national park. An Associated Press report, quoting local poince, said "fliegal logging" had dentified the surrounding hills, "allowing rainwater to suddenly swell the river" in the park

"I'm a latecomer on this issue," admowledges De la Cruz, who is on her third and last term as governor. But the issue of the environmental degradation of Biak na Bato has been a "hot-button" issue in Busecan for about a decade, ever since environmental groups, ied by the Miriam PEACE, started calling attention to the damage being done to the mountain acles and surrounding areas of Biak na Bato by

firms quarrying for marble and iron ore. And though a self-confessed "latecomer," De la a controversy that sees her being pit against the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Secretary Angelo Reyes and powerfu. mining interests

LOCATED at the foot of the Sierra Madre que or a n mountain range, Biak na Bato is best known among Filipinos as the place where Katipunan forces, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, fied after they were routed by Spanish troops from Cavite, It

AT LARGE duct operations within the minera, reserve Rina Jimenez-David

was here where Aguinaldo signed the "Pact of Blok na Bate." which resuited in a temporary half to hore bries In a special report for the PCU in 1998. Vinsa Dating itom write that environmentalists ere leminimizing the operations of Rosemout Mining and revelopment Corp. which was regaged in investone quarrying with n Biak ma

hat revered by a permit from the oblinic Transportmentalism tear that these operations would were havor on the fragile ecosystem of historic high na Bato whose geological hase forms pair of the Angat watershed that supplied the water requirements of Metro Manual, wrote Darging their Bish ha Baton natural springs serve the needs of local communities surrounding the park. Most of its over 100 caves remain

unexplored and continue to evolve naturally.

J. C. C. Belle shousehold Bacobs and English you thorities and even socio-civic organizations had long been kilboying with her to intervene in the Biak na Bato controversy, De sa Gruz says she the same the same or many the same her me y a not en te transfer a facilità Cruz now finds herself smack data in the center of the second of the sec of a second region region represented

The strength pendents drawned where he a country show so do not age of the country resided to he

Te 4 1 21

or a real of a right by President Manuel . Quezon in 1937, Busk na Bato remained in relatively pristine state until 1981 when Dr. Lourdes Pascual was assest a prospering permit by the DENR inside the park. Pascual later transferred her rights to Rosemoor, which began quarrying within its approximately 330,000-hectare portion of the mineral reserve, created by a proclamation sesued by the Aquino administration. Later, small er mining firms were granted permits to also con-

Residents and environmentalists are raising alarms about the quarrying going on in Biak ha Bato because of the impact of the biastings on the caves, soil layer and inderground water sources in the area. Datingumpo cites the experience of Sitlo Cogonen, a small community that used to get its water directly off the north face of Mt Mabto, where Rosemoor is quarrying. By 1998, the residents had to buy their water by the barrel because the springs had dried up, due to the blastings that caused the cotlapse of patural warer reservoirs. De in Cruz says she fears for the fate of watershed systems in her province be cause once they are irreparably damaged, "Metro Mantin wil, also lose its water and power supply."

ONE would think that the logical step to take would be for both the national and local goveraments to join hands and enforce the necessary laws to limit, if not totally eliminate, the sources of environmental risk in Biak na Bato. But what has happened in Bulacan since 2004 has been exactly the opposite, with the provincial government finding itself at loggerheads

That year, after declaring Biak na Bato a "No Mining Area," and after learning that the Supreme Court had upheld the cancellation of Rosemoor's quarry license (in 1987), the provincial government sought clarification with the DENR regarding Rosemoor's status, particularly in application for a "Mineral Production Sharing Agreement" and an "Ore Transport Permit."

What resulted was a flurry of letter-writing, paper tracking, public hearings and a media war that has since blurred the saues in Basa na Buto and has ushered in precisely what the governor feared: the entry of pouties into an

Flight from Kuwait

I WAS ONLY 10 YEARS OLD WHEN TRAQ INVADED RUWAIT on Aug. 2, 1990. It was one of the last days of summer vaca-tion in the country. I was puzzled to see my dad still in bed at a time when he should have been at work. But it was from my mom that I learned that war had broken out. She was conversing with a kababayan, and she mentioned the word. I thought we would never be able to go home

Days after the war started, the Philippine government advised the Filipinos War to evacuate from Kuwait and proceed to Jordan, which would be the fina, exit from the Middie East to the Philippines. Togeth-

YOUNG BLOOD affected by the Gulf Katherine Gae T Yamar .

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current tisues? We

welcome contributions from the

twentysomething and below. - Ed. er with other Pilipinos, my family and I left Kuwalt two. weeks later. My dad drove our car to Iraq with our whole family - Mommy, my older brother, my two younger sisters." and me-and a family friend. It wasn't a very comfortable:

When we reached Iraq, I felt unsafe. Knowing that President Saddam Hussein had ordered the invasion of Kuwait, I., thought all the Iraqis would be like him-tyrannical and treacherous

In Baghdad, we stayed in a hotel for a couple of days wait- " ing for our names to be put on the nat of persons to be evacuated that was being prepared by the Philippine Embassy. Every day, we had to wait under the scorching heat of the sunfor the go signal from the embassy. My youngest sister was barely 2 months old (she was the youngest Filipino evacuee we were to learn later) and my mom and I took turns carry

One old Iraqi woman, who was watching us from her; house near where we had parked our car, asked us if we were thirsty and offered us water to drink. At first, my mother declined and thanked the old woman for her kind gesture. But after waiting for hours, my mother herself asked the old: woman for some water

When the woman graciously opened the gate to her house, the first thing we noticed was a portrait of the Virgin Mary hanging on the wall. My morn asked the kind women JF the was a Christian and she said yes with a broad smile, per- i haps thinking that we were Christians, too. After quenching a our thirst, we thanked her and went back to wait near the,

Another woman in a house across the street inquired how old my baby sister was. When she was told that the baby I wasn't even 2 months old, she invited us to stay in her house 1 while my dad and my two uncles stayed outside to wait for J the signal from the embassy.

The house was elegant like any rich Arab's home. She turned on the air-conditioning in the living room where my mom, my two sisters and I waited. She said she couldn't bear to watch us enduring the heat. And she was deeply concerned about my baby sister

The Iraqi woman spoke very good English because she and her family often visited Canada. She told my mother that 1 she and her family didn't approve of the invasion of Kuwait. Both were obviously afraid to talk about such a sensitive I matter, but they understood each other anyway.

After a while, some members of her family joined us. They, were as beautiful as she. The old woman who offered us wa ter also came with her lovely daughter. We later found out -! that the woman who invited us to wait inside their house was X

My mom wondered how the two traquifamilies, who belonged to different faiths, could get along so well. They replied that belonging to different faiths should not keep people from being really good friends and neighbors.

Then my dad came and told us that it was time for us to) leave. The Muslim family gave us an ice bucket filled with food for our journey to Jordan. Deeply touched by the fame, ly's kindness, my mother burst into tears. The two families were smiling, comforting her. And Lmyself was on the verge.

We gave them our sincerest thanks as we boarded our car a and began the trip to Jordan.

During the trip, I couldn't get over my amazement that good Sumuritans could be found in the land of a leader who was terrorizing his own people. And I could not believe that I the same generous folk could be labelled as fundamental-

Katherine Gae T. Yamar, 26, is a call center agent at PeopleSupport (Phile.) in Makati City.

The fallen pharaoh

EGYPT'S KIFAYA MOVEMENT HAS RAISED THE ante in its opposition to President Hosni-Mubarak's regime by assuing a massive report that dares to name names and detail corruption among the country's leaders. Nothing in Egypt's long history has ever equaled this airing of the country's dirtiest laundry.

Kifaya's action is especially bood in the midst of government crackdown to prepare the way for the succession of Mubarak's son, Gama. For exampie, a recent law mandates punishment for anyone who spreads rumors that Gamal is to be the next president

Corruption in Egypt, as in other Arab states, in so extensive as to undermine the possibility of economic advancement, higher living standards, a free media, independent courts and democracy. Egypt's political elite, fearful of critical media coverage, defeat in fair elections and even imprisonment, prefer the existing regime and oppose any significant reform.

This is a key theme of the report, entitled "Corruption in Egypt: A Black Cloud That Never Passes." As long as the system is corrupted from above, and as long as the only way common people can deal with the government is through oribery, says the report, mefficiency will reign and people will cheat each other. The only way to break this victous circle is to replace the regime.

At the same time, as was seen in Yasir Arafat's Palestine Authority, a corrupt regime encourages people to turn to radical Islamists, who work hard to present themselves as bonest. If the Mushin Brotherhood comes to power in Egypt one day, Kifaya's report will explain a locabout how it hap-

The report begins by joking that Egypt's name should be changed to "Pasadistan," the land of corruption. It documents cases relating to housing, business, health, transportation, trade, benks, drugs, agriculture, politics, culture and the media. One chapter covers how the security forces control appointments to all key jobs, including in schools and universities

But the mist dramatic part of the book con-



cerns Mubarak himself. An anecdote, which rings true, has Mubarak meeting with officers of the Third Army two years ago. Some of the younger officers complained about corruption. Muberak apparently surprised them by saying that he knew that many leading people in the country were thieves, but that he believed they had stoten enough to keep them happy. He was afraid, he explanted, that if he appointed new people they would start over in their depredations, putting a much heavier burden on Egypt

According to the report, Mubarak, his wife Susan and his two sons, Gama, and Alaa, are far from being mere bystanders. When Mubarak be-came president in 1981, parliament granted him the right to control all military contracts without legislative oversight. In effect, the report states, he has a monopoly on military spending and imports, apparently a rich source of luckbacks

Sundarly, Susan Mubarak is the head of as many as 100 charities that often exist only on paper. The report charges that as much as \$5 million might go to one of these institutions in a year but a large portion is then siphoned off to her secret foreign bank accounts. Ironically, Susan Mubarak, says the report, urged the passage of a 1992 law that permitted Egyptian non-governmental organizations to receive foreign funds—a provision used by some opposition groups—in or-der to provide channels for the NGOs she runs. The president's son Gamal also has his own charties that provide him with money, claims Kifaya, including the famous al-Mustaqbal organization.

Muharak's two sons, says the report, are said to receive profit-making partnerships—without making any investment—in a large number of companies, including Phil sp Klorns, Skoda Auto-

Movenpick, Vodafone, McDonalds, and many others. They can also, it adds, obtain unsecured bank toans for themselves and their friends

The report maintains that these funds are often used for illegal financia, transactions, arms dealing and money laundering. The sons' interests alregedly also include forays into drug smuggling and illegal exports of archaeological trea sures-Egypt's ciutural heritage-in parmership with Custure Minister Faruq Hustn, who is supposed to safeguard them. Anyone who stands in their way can be thrown into prison on false charges of drug dealing

Other cabinet ministers are no better, Kifaya claims. Boutros Ghali, nephew of the former UN secretary general, Interior Minister Habib Acadh and such powerful figures as Ibrahim Suleiman and Safwat Sharif are engaged in similar deals, sometimes in partnership with Mubarak's sons

In short, the report says, officials can do what they like, unbound by law or transparency. By us-ing the "emergency law," which has restricted freedom since 1981, together with censorship and rigged elections, Egypt's government treats its citizens like serfs

Meanwhile, massive corruption is devastating Egypt's economy, with growth falling by half in the last two years, accompanied by rising unemproyment, higher inflation and currency depreci ation. Foreign investment is also declining, and local production is paralyzed, necessitating ex-pensive imports. The discontent fueled by these failures is a major potential cause of unrest

By issuing such a detailed report and during to name Mubarak and his family as the prime culprits, Kifaya is challenging the regime head-on. The need for reform, it argues, is not based merely on a desire for better government or abstract rights, but is necessary to save a country that at being strangled. The regime may respond by try-**Project Syndicate** ing to tighten the noose.

Barry Rubin is director of the GLORIA Center at Israel's Interdisciplinary University and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirencomph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the post tion you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously

IN THE NEWS





jocelyn "joc-joc" Bolante



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(O):

THE COMMENTARY OF FR John J. Carroll, S.J. (PDI, 7/8/06) "Déjá vu all over again" did revive memories of historical events where the Church played a crucial role by intervening in political matters. These ecclesial initia tives have escaped serious and honest reflection on the part of society and of the Church in particular Did these dejà vu events strengthen Phil ppine democracy? Did they reform our politics and produce a more mature citizenry? Did they offer lessons that underline values for nation-building? Did they unite our people? What effect did they have in the formation of future bishops and priests? Pather Carron reminded as

Role of bishops

in RP politics

AB

"that without the cardinal's very vocat support, the impeachment case against her predecessor would never have gotten off the ground, nor would the momentum have been sustained that ied to her succession." He like this to the warning of the bishops in that famous pastoral exhortation before the 1986 snap e ections, saying that those who subvert the elections by gravely and *make themselves anworthy of the Body the Middle Ages when excommunication was feared by both king and peasant-but of doubtful effect on the conscience of modern-day executives and reconey drivers

ble' teaching on relations between Church and State? This is a cureka statement: the key to the proper reception of al, statements and actions made by bishops when they intervene in politics-that terra sucognita in their seminary curriculum and pastors. aphere. This leads to that most helpful recommendation in Father Carroll's commentary-for the laity to evaluate the situation and to assess whether the bishops know what they are doing or exhort-

ing in the postical sphere Without this clear reminder, the community being served by a bishop who takes a partisan politica, position would be rent asunder-and the primary responsibility of the bishop to be the father of unity, the architect of a community founded on the love of Christ would be imperiled and just perhaps, the admonition that he would make hi nself unworthy of the Body of the Lord might app y, too

I noted earlier that there has been thus far no frank and comprehensive reflection and





Greatness in our future

CONGRATULATIONS FOR printing Basilio Valdebuesas' No! me tangere" in your Youngbood column sast June

I have said before and I will say it again, "Let us have faith that our Edsa ideals and courage are alive and wen in our descendants '

f we have sons like Basilto (his parents must be very proud of him) who thinks and knows that we are a gifted and beautifu, people, and I know that there are many like him (my granddaughter Ana-Pascua, is one) then there is greatness in our future. And this will happen because of the efforts of our children and grandchildren who are now the young entrepreneurs?

Unfortunately because of the lure of the dollar and brighter prospects for a good life, many young ones have left for green er pastures. They cannot be fat ted though. They continue to keep our peso afloat with

Another pat in the back for

-CONSUELO D. SISON. 10 Alpha Rd., Alpha Village,

PSALM clarifies status of Masinloc sale

I WRITE TO CLARIFY THE ISsues and questions raised by Conrado R. Bana, III in his colamn last July 11

YNN Pacific Consortium Inc. failed to deriver the \$227 54-milsion upfront payment on June 30, 2006 The PSALM board of directors called on the \$14 14-million performance bond, and the amount was conected and credited to the PSALM special trust account on July 4.

Consistent with the process, the PSALM board in its meeting on July 6, voted to usue the notice of termination of the contract. The notice was assued the following

As stated in the contract, termination takes effect 30 days after the nonce is usued (meaning on Aug 5, 2006) This is not an extension, but a notice period, following standard practice

Should YNN remit the \$227 million before the termination takes effect, the government will not return the forfeited performance bond, a stipulation YNN is aware of and respects

We maintain that public interest was protected throughout that transaction. Contrary to the opinion of critics, the decision to extend the original deadline of March 31 to June 30 was made because of public interest. The increase in the performance bond by \$3 manon as a result of the extension of the origina, deadline raised the conectible amount by 27 percent.

The successful sale of Masinioc

would have meant the entry of a new player and a broader ownership base in the electric power industry, as well as a good revenue stream for government to be used: for the payment of the debts of the National Power Corp.

Under the Epira and its .mplifmenting rules, there is no specific capitalization requirement to bid for the generation assets of Napocor. The initial bid bond of \$9 million, or about P500 million, submitted by the YNN consortium when it submitted its bid for the Masinioc plant was an indicator that the investor had substantia. assets. Great Pacific was a member of the consortium at the time YNN submitted and won the bid for the Masinloc plant

While it is true that we suffered a setback in the privatization schedule, the government made sure its interests and credibility were protected by requiring a performance bond and then promptly declaring it forfeited when the deadline was not met

We continue to follow the process stipulated in our bidding rules and our contract. This is important if we are to maintain credibility and transparency in our privatiza? tion process, which we believe are necessary to boost investor confidence in the long term

-FROILAN A. TAMPINCO. vice president, Arset Management and Electricity Trading, Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), 6758 Ayala Ave., Makatı City

'Misused' patrol vessel assigned to LGU

LET ME THANK THE INQUIRER. for featuring a photo of a patrol vessel with side-markings BFAR BDP-2842 in its July 2 issue. The "misuse" of the vesses (which carried aboard people dressed in swimwear) inside the Giant Claim Protected Area of the Hundred Irands in Pangasinan just shows the concern of the public in ensuring that government property is used only for its intended purpose.

Under the law, only the local government units (LGUs' have jurisdiction over their respective municipa, waters. What we in the Bureau of Fisher es and Aquatic Resources do to ensure the proper management and conservation of our fisheries and aquatic resources is help strengthen their capability to enforce fishery laws Since last year, the BFAR, through our Bantay Dagat project, has deproyed a total of 92 patrol vessens for the use of different LGUs nationwide, particularly in areas where illegal fishing is found ram-

The deployment of patrol vessess is covered by a memorandum of agreement between the recipient LGU and the BFAR The MOA provides that the boats shall be used solely for the anti-litegal fishing drive and that the LGU shall take care of the costs of operation and maintenance of the boats. The

BFAR for its part reserves the pow er to pull out the boats should it find that the same are being misused and/or not being properly maintained by the LGL

The patrol boat in the photo has been assigned to Binmaley, Pangas nan. At the moment, an investigation into the incident is being conducted.

We encourage our people to be more vigilant about the programs and projects of the government IIlegal fishing has wreaked serious damage on our resources (e.g., massive destruction of coral reefs, decrease in biodiversity and in fishcatch) It would take decades to: rehabilitate these marine re-sources. Worse, some of these resources have been so destroyed that they are beyond rehabilita-

Moreover, an estimated P2 bill from is lost annually due to foreigh poaching. The amount is big enough to improve the lot of many of our municipal fisher folk

The BFAR needs the help of everybody to curb filega, fishing, and we are very happy of the sup-

port given to us by the media. -MALCOLM L SARMIENTO JR. director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, PCA Complex, Eliptical Road,

Diliman, Quezon City



news item "It's graft-buster vagraft-buster in the office of Ombudsman" (PDI 7/7/06) which alluded to graft and corruption in the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military and Other Enforcement Offices (MOLEO)

The article is a most a word-for word reproduction of the camplaint filed on Dec 22, 2005 by lawyer Gi bert Bueno against the deputy ombudsman and other officials, before Ombudsman Merceditas Gutterrez

The all egations contained therein are misleading, mailcious and devoid of truth Bueno filed the complaint after his appea, to be promoted was denied and after he was prohibited from sed ng food inside office premis-

On the case of Fructuoso Vidarin vs SPO4 Francisco Torres et a.,, as deputy ombudsman for the MOLEO, I merely acted on the request of respondent Francisco Torres (a retiree) to act on the Affidavit of Desistance executed by the complainant

On the issue of the lifestyle check being conducted on my circumstances, let it be known that prior to entering government service, I was engaged in a fruitfui private practice. My children were already in private schools when I took on my present job with the Office of the Ombudiman Contrary to Bueno's insinuations, I was able to provide my family with the necessities of a comfortable life through 28 years of hard work and dedication in

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE my professional life, not through any unlawful activity. The SAL I file yearly will show if I or any of my relatives have acquired any unexplained wealth and pieces of

property. On the assue of nepotism and favoritism, the matter of selection and hiring of employees is transparent and in accord with the exating rules of the Civi. Service Commission Employees and candidates are accorded access to records of proceedings. Moreover, employees are being rated by the concerned director based on individual performance, and it is the Tanodbayan who select the employees who are granted scholar-

THIDS I rose from the ranks-starting out as graft investigation and prosecution officer to director to, acting assistant ombudsman before I was designated deputy ombudsman and concurrent OICoverall deputy ombudsman. My management style and the intrapersonal facets of my leadership have always been transparenty basanced and awful.

Finally, as pointed out in the 2005 Annua, Report of the Office, of the Ombudsman, the OMB-. MOLEO under my stewardshiphas been cited as the highest performing office in terms of cases resolved

-ORLANDO C. CASINIRO, deputy ombudemen for the Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices, Office of the Ombudsman, I/F Ombodemen Bidgy Agham Road, Dillman, Quezon City



INQUIRERVisayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureou Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Exotic 'diwal' endangered anew

Romas City

NLY A YEAR AFTER IT WAS DEclared to have been successfully revived, the succulent bivalve "diwal" is again on a decline.

The two-day "Diwa: Harvest Festival" heid in Roxas City on July 14 and 15 was a big letdown, especially to people wanting to taste the native delicacy, which is also popularly considered an aphyodistac. The diwal was not as abundant as last year when the festival celebrating its comeback was first staged

The scarcity of the diwal, also known as "angel wings" or "chicken of the sea," is again raising concern over the state of its habitat-the seawaters of Roxas City-and the fishing practices of local fisherfolk

The harvesting of diwal is a source of hyelhood for many small fishers in the city's coastal barangays, particularly Punta Cogon, Libas and Barra, which are known "diwal" grounds

The second Diwal Harvest Festival was flocked by tourists, some coming from Manila where the much sought-after bivaive (Pholas orientalis) is sold at skyrockering prices in restaurants and hotels. However, many of them left Roxas Ciry-the so-called "seafood capital of the Philippines" frustrated. The prices in the Roxas markets were just as high local divers sold the newly gathered divol at P250 to P400 a kilo. Last year, a kilo of diwal only cost from P80 to P120 per kilo

One diwal gourmand who expressed frustration over the brvaive's scarcity was regional director Rolando Asis of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Western Visayas (DPWH 6)

Asis said he came all the way to Roxas City from lioilo City where he is based just so he could taste the succulent and sweet-tasting "diwal" again. But he said it took hours for his companions to find angel wings in the market of the public plaza where the food festival was

Where's the diwal?

Asis' experience was in contrast to the first Diwar Harvest Festival last year when the bivalve was in such abundance, people could find them anywhere in the city.

This time, some festival-goers even complained that the food outlets at the plaza ran out of "diwal" in various concections



ROGER Cortez (right), president of the Roxas City Diwal Divers Association, leads members in transplanting "diwal" or "angel wings" at the seawaters of Barangay Punta Cogon during the recent Diwal Harvest Festival. PHOTOS AT FELIPE CELINO

Almost all the kinsks at the plaza served pork and chicken barbecue and peanurs as "pulutan" (bar chow) during the two-night food fest. Some of them served fish and seashells. But there were very few "diwal" dishes on the menu.

Before the festival began however, the city government, which organized the event, acknowledged that the harvest this year was bad, forcing them to cut down the festival period to two days, from last year's five

Mayor Antonio del Rosano, who claimed that the city government spent P10 mation to revive the "diwal" sanctuaries in Barangay Punta Cogon, said the bivalve's habitat came under extreme strain due to illegal fishing. This was compounded by typhocus, he added

Punta Cogon barangay councilor Danilo Aguilos, however, has a different explanation He said it was the reckless divers who are destroying the sanctuaries and not the fishermen using traw! (fine mesh nets)

Aguilos does not believe, mo, that typhoons are wrecking the "diwal" sanctuaries. He said the bivalve lives on the seabed and thus could not easily be uprooted by strong water current

The village official dismissed Del Rosario's

claim that the city government invested P10 million in the 5-hectare sanctuaries. He placed it only at P250,000

During last year's festival, divers were able to harvest about 10 tons of "diwal." This year, during the first day of harvest on Friday last week, divers managed to gather 680 kilos only. The city agriculturist office said the second day of harvest was warse. The divers' harvest was only 160 kilos.

Ironscally, the Western Visayas Regional Development Council (RDC-6) is set to give an award to the city government of Roxas for reviving the diwal it cited the city's project as the "Best Public Sector Project" this year.

Drivin made a comehack last year after almost a decade of absence, thanks to the threeyear study of the institute of Aquaculture of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, the Department of Science and Technology and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

David came close to disappearing due to destructive methods used by commercial fishers.

Certain environmental factors were also blamed for the near decimation of the diwar

population particularly in Barangays Punta Cogon, Libas and Barra

The study brought back dival to the coastal waters of Roxas after its natural habitat was rehabilitated.

Diwal also thrives in the mostal waters of the towns of Panay and Pontevedra. Its resurfacing was being viewed by Capiceños as a blessing that needed to be shared and cele-brated, thus the Diwal Festival.

The resurfacing last year of the bivatve was greatly attributed to the decrease of trawling activities, limited use of chemicals in various aquaculture activities and continuing education on how to preserve diwar.

The UP-Visayas study was conducted from 1994 to 1997 involving the support of not on ly Roxas City but also of selected areas in liolo and Negros Occidental. The Department of Agriculture also assisted the study through ta Fisheries Sector Program

I involved mainly the transplanting of "di wal" in places where it used to be abundant in an attempt to rehabilitate them. In Roxas City, the coastal waters of Punta Cogon became the

In the course of the study, the city government declared a moratorium on the gathering of "diwal" to allow known habitats and breeding grounds to restore themselves.

Laureta's recommendations

Despite the success of the UP study, the marine scientist who conducted the work, Dr. Liberato Laureta, recommended a number of steps to sustain diwal's production.

Among these are.

* The municipal management of the resource to include deciding on when to ban and open the harvest of the bivalve

* The strict enforcement on the ban on trawling and dredging in municipal waters

* The establishment of fisherfolk cooperatives who would closely protect and manage the resource

Seed dispersal

* Refinement of batchery techniques

* Stock enhancement; and

 Transpiantation of brood stocks Laureta had said that diwor's juicy and umque flavor and the high demand for it in the market were, sadly, the very factors that caused its rapid depiction in its traditiona.

breeding grounds. He pointed out that the prospect for diwal as an industry is bright, provided that diwal grounds are rehabilitated and sustained

Leyte artist uses indigenous materials

By Vicente S. Labro

Tacloban City

NGENUTTY AND TALENT SEEM TO BE WHAT keeps Leyreño visual artist Leo Viliafior ahead of his contemporaries in the province.

using native dyes, soot and even feathers on his canvas, Villaflor is still at it, this time also using seashells and crab shells, tree banks and roots, and coconut sheaths, among other usable things.

Viliaflor said young Filipino artists could not make expensive painting materials as an excuse of not doing art works because there are many cheap or even free materials available if they just looked around

The 64-year-old painter, who has been advocating the use of native materials in doing art works, told the Inquirer than it is his quest for a Filipino identity that prompted him to use nd.genous materials like native dyes and even "ruba " the popular coconut palm wine

With their natural colors, native materials ike bamboos, tree barks, clay, seashells, and the shells of cooked crabs could be used in mixed media art works, he added

Vittaflor also lamented that there is no true Filrpino art style, saying that the West already influenced the works even those of famous Filipmo artists ake Juan Luna and Fernando Amorsolo.

He said that unlike the Philippines, some countries like India, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia were able to preserve their indigenous art works and perpetuate their traditional style of painting. "They were able to retain

their identity," he said Pilipinos, he said, do not have aboriginal or traditional art works to speak of.

"One of the ways by which we can establish our own Filipino identity is through the use of indigenous materials," he said

Viliaflor also justified his use of different indigenous materials by saying that art should be progressive. "It is a continuing change in order to achieve something new, something different, something unique," he said

A-list clients

What Villaflor has been doing did not only sansfy his quest for something new, but it also caught the attention of some of his clients, among them former Leyte Gov. Adelina "Inday" Larrazabal and one of her daughters who bought some of his mixed media art works.

According to Villaflor, Mrs. Larrazabal bought two of his mosaic works with the Virgin Mary and an ancient belfty as subjects. He said he used pinkish colored seashells for the face and white shells for the exquisite lace in the Virgin Mary art piece, while for the belfry he used bark of the acacia tree, which is white in the inside and dark in the outside

In some of his works, Villaflor used shells of cooked crabs. "I was looking for an orange color that would complement the colors of an art work I was doing then when I thought of the sheals of cooked crabs," he recalled

At first he had a problem with the bad smell of crab shells but he soon found a way of removing it by using alcohol.

Just because he has been using indigenous materials does not, however, mean that Villaflor does not do oil painting

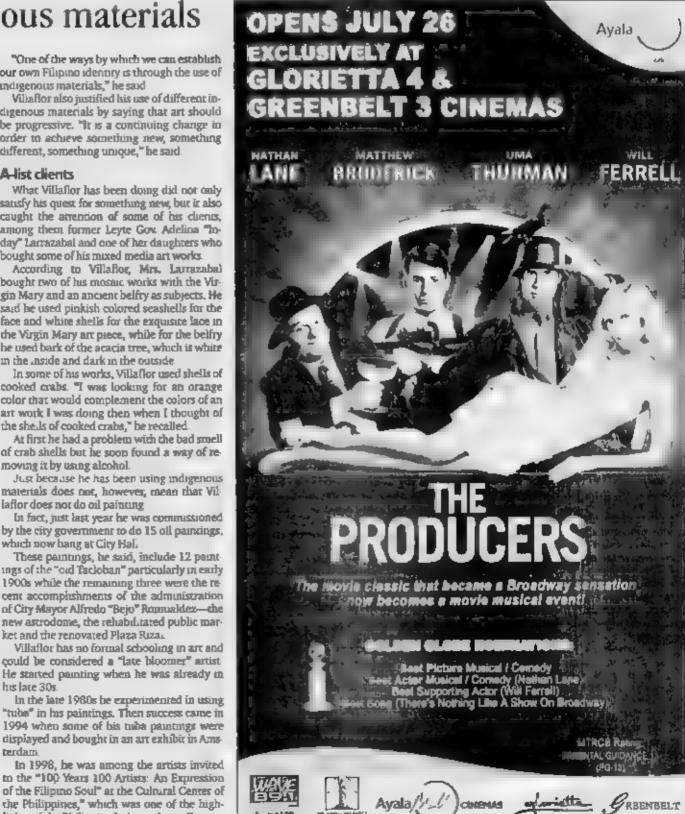
by the city government to do 15 oil paintings, which now bang at City Hal. These paintings, he said, include 12 paintings of the "old Tacloban" particularly in early 1900s while the remaining three were the recent accomplishments of the administration

ket and the renovated Plaza Riza. Villaflor has no formal schooling in art and could be considered a "late bloomer" artist. He started painting when he was already in his late 30s.

new astrodome, the rehabilitated public mar-

In the late 1980s be experimented in using "tube" in his paintings. Then success came in 1994 when some of his tuba paintings were displayed and bought in an art exhibit in Ams-

In 1998, he was among the artists invited to the "100 Years 100 Artists: An Expression of the Filipino Soul" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines," which was one of the highlights of the Philippine Independence Centenmai celebration.



VISUAL artist Leo Villafor puts on bits of crab shell on his

'diwat' or 'chicken of



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Trees to rise along 3,400 km of roads

By Hazel P. Villa PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—HALF A MILLION SEEDLINGS WILL be used for a massive tree planting activity in August that will simultaneously take place along the country's three major highways, covering a total of 3,489 kilometers.

ment and Natural Resources regional office here said senior environment field officials were instructed this week by Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to assure the availability of some 500,000 tree seedlings and coordinate with provincial, city and municipal govamment units to take part in the

massive tree planting on Aug. 25. The massive tree planting, where

GRATITUDE

Young Muslim , women students in

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"SANTOS/PORMINDANAC

BLIREAL

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Cotabato wave small

The Department of Environ- both sides of the highways across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao would be planted with gmetina and mahogany seedlings at an interval of 10 merers per seedling, will launch "Green Philippine Highways."

The DENR said the project was "meant to promote the image of every Filipino as a planter of trees and make communities that link these highways become custodians of their environment."

Included in the synchronized treeplanting are the entire lengths of the PAN-Philippine Highways (Lanag City to Davao City at 2,176.40 km), Manila North Road (Lacag to Manila at 439.20 km), and the West Nauticad Highway (Batangas City-Zamboenga-Sibugay ar 823.90 km)

Julian Amador, Western Visayas DENR regional director, said this "Green Chain" of the PAN-Philippure Highway that begins at Manila North Road and West Nautical Highway would pass through the island of Panay via the Aklan towns of Catician, Nebes, Ibajay, Tangalan, Makato Numancia, Kalibo, Banga, Balere, Altavas, the Capiz towns of Mambusao, Sigma, Dao, Cuartero, and Dumarao; Passi City in Boilo and its rowns of Duenas, Dingie, Pototan, Zarraga and Leganes all the way to Boilo City.

In Negros Occidental, the "Green Chain" will pass through the cities of Bacolod and Bago and the towns of Vailadolid, San Ennque, Pontevedra, Hirugaran, Binalbagan, Hirnamaylan, and the component city of Kabankalan all the way to the Negros Oriental provincial boundary.

Rhodora Capulso, head of the DENR regional public affairs office, said Wednesday that parts of the lughways that have electrical wires would be planted with hedges like yellow bells and the acacia species called auri cultiformis while those without electrical wires will be planted with gmelina and mahogany seedlings.

Capulso said DENR employees are currently gathering "widlings" or gradium and mahogany seedlings growing naturally in forests and other

ROUNDUP

Flag raising incentives

BACOLOD CITY-The provincial government has come up with raffle draws to here employees to attend the 7:45 a.m. flag ceremony every Monday, Still, many continue to miss it, including department heads, Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said Failure to attend the flap ceremonies should affect the rating of government employees. which entities them to a productivity



bonus of P2,000, he added. "It is important to attend the early morning caremonies because we do so to renew our loyally to the flag, country and God," he added. He noticed that sometimes, less than 70 percent of the Capitol employees attend the flag caremonies on Mondays. "That is why we instituted the raffle incentive," he said. The prizes depend on the department sponsoring the flag ceremony. If it is the Provincial Valerinary Office, items like chickens are given out. If it is the Previncial Agriculture Office, vegetabies are up for grabs. Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

New Army head in Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Former Negros Island commander Maj. Gen. Victor brado is back as head of the Army forces in Western and Central Visayas, incoming Armed Forces chief of staff Hermogenes Esperon is set to install (brade as the new commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division temperow at Camp. Macarlo Peraita in Jamindan, Capiz, The 3rd Infantry Division has about 5,00r soldiers stationed in Negros, Pansy. Cebu and Bohol, Ibrado, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class '76, will replace Maj. Gen. Alphonsus Crucero, who will retire on Aug. 2. Ibrado served as commander of the 11th Infantry Battason in northern Negros from 1992-94 and later as chief of the 303rd Infantry Brigade from 2002-2003. Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Burea.

Marijuana uprooted in Cebu

CEBU C TY-Almost 20 000 stalks of marijuana were uprooted on Frtday in a mountain village in Baiamban, around 63 km west of Cebu City Balamban police chief Insp. Anthony Bagarinao led the operation of at least 60 people composed mainly of village officials and watchmen in uproofing the manyuana plants in Sitios Ambacon, Taro Cabatbatan, afi in Barangay Bayong



which is 20 km from the town proper. From the main berangay authorities have to walk 7 km and cross rivers and ravines to reach areas where the plantations were located. Bagar had said. A total of 19 671 stalks of marijua na were uprooted by Bagarinao said they burned 13,556 stalks in the area

Jhonner Rapatiacao, PDI Visayas Bureau

Mining firm sees sabotage in creek poisoning

LEGAZPI CITY—UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS poured what appeared to be pesticide into a creek near Lafayette's Rapu-Rapu project last Wednesday then sent out text messages saying that the project had a spill that has killed marine life

"This is sabotage to scare people and is no different from the mercury hoax andmining and leftist groups carried our early this year," Lafayette spokesperson lawyer Julito Sarmiento said yesterday

"It is impossible for us to affect the environ- is accessible to anybody. t ment at this time because we are only using

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the test run and no chemicals whatsoever. We think the same groups who mounted the mercury hoax are behind this. Besides, we are beng strictly monitored full time by DENR offi-

In the apparent pesticide boox, residents said the creek smelled of Thiodan.

Anamas Baiato, a fisherman residing in the island, said the creek smelled strongly of pesnoide early Wednesday that his son even threw up. The creek is outside the project and

Sarmiento said the company is investigatwater and non-mineralized ore at this stage in log the matter and has hightened its surveil-

lance operations with the help of the nurrounding community to prevent a similar attempt by antimining groups

He asked the media to be vigilant and not to fall for desperate and irresponsible stunts to prevent a repeat of the mercury hoax.

Some groups desperately want Lafayette not to resume operations at all costs either because they love the environment so much they do not care if people remain poor and uneducated, or maybe because it is precisely their goal to keep the poor poor to promote whatevex advocacy they are pushing," he said

The text brigade had been traced to a priest in Rapu-Rapu, who was known to be antimining and among those who filed a civil suit against Lafayette Thursday at the Makari Regiorial Trial Court, said Sarmiento.

Sarmiento also pointed out that they already passed the first stage of the test-run and

used only water to test the piping system. The 30-day test-run, which is now on its second stage and on its 10th day, involves gravel and soil to test if the facilities can hold materials more than just water.

Luis Valdez, public information officer of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said Lafayette passed the first stage of the test-run. and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes had already ordered the second stage of the test-TLD to start

Pr Felino Bugausan, assistant parish priest of Sta. Florentino Church in Rapu-Rapu, said he had nothing to affirm or deny.

Bugauisan was among those who filed a petition signed by 800 individuals at a Makati court seeking a halt to the 30-day test-run that started July 10. Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luson Bureau

P128M for Negros bridges

BACCLOD CITY-Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said the feasibility study for the proposed bridges envisioned to interconnect the Visayan Island: of Panay, Negros, Cebu and Bohoi will cost 9128 million. The governor said. President Macapagai-Amoyo has "agreed in principle" to fund the feasibility study but it might not be a priority yet, given the other more pressing financial concerns of the government. Arnalz said it was Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon who reminded the President about the need to provide a budget for a feasibility study for the Visayas bridges project because it was not fisted in the medium term development plan for the Central Philippines super region, Arnalz said. Carlo Gomez PDI Visayas Bureau

more militant leader added to Left death toll

ECHAGUE, ISABELA-THE LEADER of a farmers' group here who was shot on Thursday died in a local hospital 11 hours after she was attacked.

Madonna Castillo, 32, secretary general of the Anakpawis-Isabela and Danggayan Dagiri Mannaion zi Isabela-Echague munucipal chapter, died at the Faustino Dy Sr. Memorial Hospital in Ilagan town at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Senior Supt. Jude Santos, acring Isabela potice director, said Castilio was appointed to take the place of slain Bayan Muna-Isabela secretary genera. Elena Mendiola who was guraned down on May 10.

Castillo was about to attend her classes at the Isabela State University here when two men shot her at past 7 a.m. Thursday

She suffered three bullet wounds in the abdomen and thighs while her companion, Marieris Valdez, was un-



MOURNERS visit the wake of slain militant æader Madonna. Castillo. WILLAHOR VISAYAJE JEDINGETHEN JUZON BUREAL

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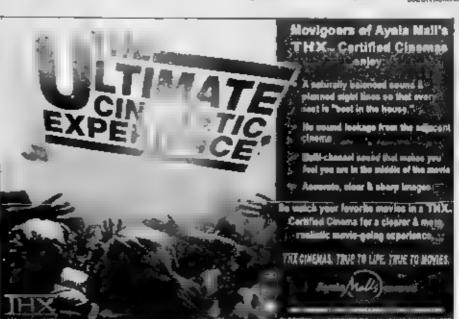
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hurt, police said.

Militare group: here suspected gov ernment soldiers to be involved in the shoot mg as Castillo had con demned the military's alleged human right. abuses in the province Lr. Col. Leopoids

Gaion Jr., Sth Infantry Division spokesper son, however, denier the allegations. In Baguio City, a fact

finding team said recencases of human rightviolations were doc. mented in Kalinga Abra and Mr. Province

Villamor Visaya Jr. with a report from Destree Calusa, PDI N Lucon Bureau

'A work of bad fiction'

"One can just .magine the pressure that was brought to bear not only on him but [aiso] on his loved ones," Gutterrez said, adding:

"Each man indeed has his own personal threshold. For this, Senator Honasan is truly sorry. The truth must, however, be borne out.

"A reading of Senator Honasan's alleged actions and statements in the affidavit, albeit twisted to show conspiracy, do not by themselves constitute crim.nal acts."

: 'Climate of fear'

Gutterrez said the release to the public of San Juan's affidavir might be part of the administration's purported attempt to whip up "a climate of fear" before Ms Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Mon-

day.

"It also comes suspiciously at a time long after the alleged events and all sorts of conflicting theories, plots and counterplots have been, in a sickening manner, foisted by the government on the public," the awver said

"(It is) a government that up to now cannot get its act together, and has to attempt to crude bribery of Catholic bishops in pur auit of a continuing hold on power Every time [Sona] time comes, it resurrects 'old ghosts' meant to create a false cumate of fear. This time, however, they have been found out," he said

Gatterrez said Honasan had never denied advocating reforms "both in the positical and military structures of government."

"This, however, he seeks to attain under a rule of law and good governance, not the law of force and convemence that sadly is being practiced," Gu, rerrez said

"He resterates his commitment to democracy, morality and the genume rule of law that guarantees fair process and impartial tri bunals Guarantee such, (and) he is ready to face his accusers," the lawyer said.

Congratulations

DAILY

GOSPEL

But In a document be leved among the papers seized from San touched on the need for a govern- port from Michael Lim Ubac

Juan upon his capture, Honasan ment that would promote a nationwas depicted as lauding the alliance of military rebels belonging to the Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan and Mekabayang Kawal Pilipino (MKP) and members of the Communust Party of the Philippines-New People's Army

In a transcript of the purported meeting on Feb. 20 between the two camps, Honasan alias Bitov sent a congratulatory statement following the forging of the alhance and the firming up of plans for Ms Arroyo's ouster after a series of discussions that allegedly spanned two years.

The statement was purportedly sent through and read during the meeting by ex-Col. Jake Malajacan

A copy of the transcript, which was in Filipino, along with a copy of the groups' declaration of unity, was obtained by the Incurrent from a source close to the military.

It showed that among those present at the "breakthrough" unity meeting were alleged CPP Central Committee members Leo Velasco, Prudencio Calubid and Adilberto Silva, CPP Southern Tagalog Regional Operational Command chief Tirso Alcantara, and persons known only by the aliases Jason, Cris and

On the part of the mistary, the others purportedly present were ex-Col. Rafael Galvez, the panel head, alias Sony, San Juan, military senior staff, alias Enteng; lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte, "military component," alias Mark, Felix Turingan, "assistant on politics," alias Karlo, and an alias Basil, "staff on politics."

Ceasefire: AFP and NPA

The document showed that among the agreements of the two camps was the formation of a transition government composed of representatives of the Left, Center and Right of the polit-

It also indicated that there would be an immediate ceasefire between the Armed Forces and the NPA as soon as the new government was set

purported agreement

alist economy, culture and foreign policy.

"In recognition of our long lasting unity, the MKP will give its flag," Malajacan said after both camps expressed agreement with all the points in the draft statement of unity and plans of action.

"Bitoy also has something for Celo (purportedly CPP official Benito Tiamson), as well as for the comrades," Malajacan added after the signing of the agreement that was celebrated with a toast

The CPP members said it was hapy that the talks went beyond plans for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

"We're happy with the unity that we've achieved. We didn't only sign a pact for the ouster moves but we've [also] moved very much forward. It is our hope that this unity rises to a higher level," said the CPP representative known only in the document as

Substantiation

Weighing in on the issue, Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier said San Juan's reveiation that Honasan was behind the purported Peb. 24 ouster attempt "substantiated what the other Magdalo members said when they testified in court that Honasan was the chief and mastermind of their coup-

Javier also expressed alarm at San Juan's claim about the supconnivance between Honasan and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the sacked commander of the Scout Rangers, in working for Ms Arroyo's

"It proves that the fugitive former senator remains intent on poisoning the military even if he has been out of the service for so many years now," Javier said of the cashiered Army

This should all the more compelthe military and police to relentlessly pursue Honasan's caprure so be can e made to answer for his crimes," the congressman said

Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas said that with San Juan's claims, the military and police should make the search for Honasan and the other coup leaders more urgent. With a re-



Mary Magdalene 1st Reading. Song 3:1-4 Gospei. John 20:1-2, 11-18

Saturday, July 22, 2006

Now, on the first day after the Sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the omb early in the morning, while it was still dark and she saw that the stone blocking the tamb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. And she said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don t know where they have laid him."

Mary stood weeping outside the tumb, and as she wept she bent down to look inside; she saw two angets in white stating where the body of Jesus had been, one or he head, and the other at the feet. They said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She answered, "Because they have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have out him."

As she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognize him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and answered him, "Lord, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him."

sesus said to her, "Mary," She rurned and said to him, "Rabboni" which means, Master. Jesus said to her, "Do not ching to me; you see I have not yet ascended to the Futher But go to my brothers and say to them: I am ascending to my Father, who is your Pather, to my God, who is your God."

So Mary of Mugdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord, and this is what he said to

Commentary

The Song speaks of longing, of someone who is last, wandering about, bereft of the one she town, but she could not find him and so she cries out. "Have you seen him?" and then she finds him. Thus is the core of the story of Mary of Magdata looking for the body of Jenus on Easter morning. She is intent on finding his body; she will settle only with that, she does not for a moment know who he was or that he is alive. She searches in her grief. She cannot cling to her own relationship with Jesus but can only learn that he belongs to God the Father and so does she belong to God the Father, with hum. We cannot judge our relations with Jesus humanly. This is a new creation and we live no longer in old ways. We are to seek the Father with Jesus in the power of the Spirit of tife.

behind 'rebel' bishops

From page A1

port behind the Roman Cathoric presites accused of involvement in a purported plot to overthrow Pressdent Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a strongly worded statement of kolloarity signed by its co-chair, kev. Alberto Ramento, the Ecumenical Bishops Forum (EBF) denounced the "harasment being waged by the Arroyo [administration] against the six bishops" and described the allegations as Malacañang's "desperate attempts" to silence its critics

'Are not the [actions] of the Arroyo [administration] designed to divert our attention from the crimes it continues to commit against the people of this republic?" said the EBF, a fellowship of bishops belonging to the Catholic Church, the Episcopal and United Methodist churches, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and the Philippine Independent

'Jucteng' witnesses

The names of the prelates Archbishops Angel Lagdameo (the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines) and Oscar Cruz, and Bishops Julio Xavier Labayen, Deogracias Iñiguez, Antomo Tobias and Teodoro Racans were earlier rattled off by Richard Garcia and Demosthenes Riva, two "jueteng" witnesses who later allegedly cast their lot with the adminustration.

Garcia and Riva had earlier ap-

proached Bishop Cruz, the outspoken sa Jueteng, and volunteered to testify regarding the operations of the illegal

But they soon abandoned the Lingayen-Dagupan prelate, purportedly

because of herty cash offers "Now is a witch-hunting time for the present administration that is nervous of losing its grip on power and might, and, all of sudden, exactly the same pair went public again," Cruz said in a statement

"Only this time their allegations are rather too convenient, and timely and preposterous as well," he said

Valid criticisms

The EBF appeared convinced that criticisms aired against the administration were valid

Widespread corruption, unexplained scandals, gambling, the sell-our of our national patrimony and above all, massive cheaning on the part of President Arroyo to perperuate herself in power-why all the attempts to cover these?" it said

The group also said that as "teachers and defenders of the faith," Lag dameo and the five other bishops were simply teaching the people to "hold on to the croth and pursue it at all times and in all places."

"It is clear to us what dissent means-it is democratic space that says a better government is possible and that the people in this land deserve a better government," it said.

leader of the Krusadang Bayan Laban numbers game

tended clandestine meetings with rightists and civilians in on the alleged ouster plot, but also arranged interviews with the media, with one of them even providing San Juan "talking points."

Both Puhdo and Belmonte are members of the frarernity Alpha Sigma, which has produced leaders both in and outside the gov ernment as well as in the communist move-

Among its prominent members are ex-Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Ms Arroyo's chief of staff Michael Defensor.

Propaganda team member

San Juan's affidavit described Pulido as

At a "grand meeting" attended by around 30 soldiers and civilians in October 2005 at Greenhills East, the lawyer supposedly "spoke for the civilian group."

We were with you since the time of [the 2003 Oakwood mutinyl There were many lawyers then but there are just two of us now We are encouraged because we know you



Magdalo lawyers linked to coup plot

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE LAWYERS OF THE MAGDALO mutineers were more than just their legal counsel, according to the affidavit of 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

The affidavit said Roei Pulido and Christopher Belmonte played crucial roles in the lives of the junior officers, lawyering for those in detention and at the same time actively supporting those in the underground

But Puhdo dismissed the affidavit as "rehashed" propaganda that was leaked so the authorities could "destroy the names of people and deny responsibility [for it]."

"We all heard San Juan," the lawyer said, referring to the officer's public remarks a few days ago. "He never said any of those

The timing of the leak was inauspicious, Pubdo added, pointing out that it was made when reporters could not ask San Juan if he had actually executed the affidavit

But Director Jesus Versoza, top investigator of the Philippine National Police, said the two lawyers were "directly involved in coordinating the different sectors in the conspiraty to launch rebellion."

"Investigation by the CIDG (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group) revealed the possible manipulative actions of the two lawyers," Versoza said, adding that the subjects of the supposed manipulation were the Magdalo men.

Active participants

The affidavit depicted Pulido and Belmonte as not only privy to but also active participants in the alleged plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo

A copy of the document shown the INOURex was signed, but the signature differed from San Juan's signature on his July 14 media statement and his April 27 letter to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperoo, the then Army chief.

Belmonte belped hide the officers who escaped their Fort Bonifacio cell last January, the affidavit said.

it said Pulido even designed a T-shirt which was to have been widely distributed to project "a wide range of support" for the

The two lawyers purportedly not only at-

the "propaganda team member" of the Makabayang Kawal Pilipino, supposedly the polineal name of the Maydalo

are with us," the affidavit quoted Pulido as telling the crowd in Filipino.

While staying at Bishop Antonio Tobias' house in Quezon Ciry, San Juan said Pulido gave him "pointers" for an interview with a TV network

"First, I have to project that our group is still defiant. Second, [that] another group of officers and enasted personnel [has] emerged from the Bagong Katipunan/Magdalo. Third, [that] the group will protect [the people) and stand (by their) decision," San Juan said

Demotion

But a sarcastic Pulido observed that after being accused of serving as the Magdalo's "spokesman," he had now been "demoted" to a mere member of its supposed propaganda

It was even "worse" for Belmonte, who was tagged in the affidavit as a mere "driver." Palido said.

The lawyer also said the statements attributed to him, some of which he had been saying long before, were not illegal per se

What they're trying to do (now) is make it appear that behind these statements is an evilmotive," he said

Pulido denied having met with San Juan when the latter went into hiding, and said he did not even know where Bishop Tobias

He laughed at being accused of memberthip in a group that "does not even exist," referring to the name Magdalo, which he said was a creation of the media.

"Now, I'm even a designer of T-shirts ... Almy friends (know) I have no artistic ability,"

Lawyers dropped

Four more Magdalo junior officers in the Army have dropped their longtime lawyers, suggesting that they may have returned to the government fold

Theodore te said he received word on Thursday that Capt John Andres, 1st Lt. Audie Tocloy and 2nd Lt. Jess Tacto had dropped him as their legal counsel in their military. and civilian court cases for the Oakwood

Tocloy and Tacio are detained at the Army headquarters in Port Bonifacio, Andres & confined in a hospital.

Pulido said he had also been told by a relative of 1st Lt. Von Rio Tayab that he would no longer serve as the latter's lawyer in the mutany case

"I expect to receive a forma, notice from (Yayab) this week. We all know what happens when they drop us as their lawyers," Pulido said

Last Sept. 13, Magdaio officers in the Army led by Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo dropped Pundo and Te as their lawyers shortly before apologizing for the second time to Ms Arroyo and reaffirming allegiance to the Constitution

Early this year, another Magdalo rebel, Army Capt. Alvin Ebreo, issued a similar statement after dropping Pulido as his

Last week, San Juan dropped Te as his lawyer and subsequently renounced his ties with the Magdalo.

Pulido said he expected Tayab to issue a similar statement of loyalty to the military and Ms Arroyo. With a report from Dona Z.

Teves father-son: Case of communication gap

Margarito "Gary" Teves, over Customs appointments

The senior Teves held a press conference vesterday where he crisicized the repeal of Administrative Order No. 133, which strengthened the powers of the finance secretary over the Bureau of Customs, and

urged his son to resign from the Cabinet. Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the elder Teves should have first talked to his son before reacting to what he said was an erroneous report (not in the Injurier) that President Maca. paga.-Arroyo had rlipped the younger

Teves' powers to reshuffle presidential appointees at the BOC.

Defensor said that he immediately urged the younger Teves to call his father and clarify that the repeal of AO 133 would not deminish the finance secretary's control over who goes or stays at the customs bureau.

He said the father and son had settled the matter between them.

Awkward situation "I think in this case the father and son did not talk. But it's surely only about this usue and nothing about his [Gary Teves'] childhood," said Defensor.

But he said he understood why the elder Teves came out to defend his son.

"I think it was probably just a father's concern. Congressman Teves was not necessarily deciding for Secretary Gary Teves who is very able and capable as secretary of finance," Defensor said.

If anything, Defensor said it was the elder Teves who should be concerned about his own status in Congress.

He said Malacañang was not too keen about Teves taking over as head of the House ways and means committee whose chair, Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, has been appointed education secretary.

Teves, who has been senior vice chair of the committee for the past few years, is in line so succeed Lapus as committee chair based on a power-sharing deal they struck in 2004.

"We will have an awkward situation where you have a chair of the ways and means committee who is the father of the finance secretary in the executive branch. As far as governance is concerned, we cannot have that situation," Defensor said.

Defensor said that House leaders, wary of a situation where father-and-son would control the key executive and congressional bodies on taxation, have already made the necessary arrangements to avoid it.

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P30M worth of shabu found in Caloocan house

Suspected drugs supplier eludes raiding team

By Nancy C. Carvajal

SOME 7.5 KILOS OF METHAMPHETAMINE hydrochloride or shabu, reportedly worth P30 million, were confiscated by the police during an early morning raid on a house in Bagong S.lang, Calcocan City.

Bagong S.lang, Caloocan City,
Following the raid, the police launched a
manhunt for a suspected big-time distributor
of illegal drugs in northern Metro Manila who
eluded the raiding team

Suppliers

Supt. Jimili Macaraeg, chief of the Northern Police District Intelligence and Investigation Division, said the house on King Paizal Street, Barangay 188, Phase 12, Caloocan City, was allegedly owned by Bong Romulos Dumato suspected of being one of the biggest suppliers of illegal drugs in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela and Bulacan province

Dumato's house was the object of a search warrant issued by Manila Regional Tria, Court Judge Ruben Roxas dated July 20.

Macaraeg said that apart from shabu, the police also found a .22 call rifle in the house Also confiscated were empty plastic sachers believed to be used for repacking idegal drugs and a weighing scale.

Operatives from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), led by Senior Supt. Abe Lemos, and Supt. Mario Dapiliosa arrested two household helpers, who were in the house during the raid.

Couriers

One of the girls, a minor, was suspected of being used as a drug courier, the police official said. The girls, who are sisters, were brought to the PDEA office at NIA Road Quezon City for further investigation. They were accompanied by SPO1 is abel Gracilla from the Women's and Children's Desk.

Only last Thursday, policemen also raided a suspected shabu laboratory in Parañaque

The raiders found 50 gallons of sulfuric acid and ethanol inside a compound housing a seafoods firm which was registered as a tuna fish exporter.

The owner, however, failed to produce a clearance from the PDEA for the chemicals found in the warehouse where equipment for a suspected mini shabu laboratory was also found

Parañaque blaze kills 2 children

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TWO CHILDREN WERE KILLED AFTER A fire ate up their home in a crowded neighborhood in Parañaque City before dawn yesterday.

Arson investigator SFO4 Arturo Castro dentified the fatalities as Bernadette Bautista, 2 and her brother, Kurt, 1.

Castro told the INCURER that the two children could have been unintentionally left behind inside their house in Rodriguez Compound, Ninoy Aquino Avenue in Barangay Sto. Nino.

Their mother, who had fainted upon learning a fire hit their home, was rushed to the hospital, neighbors said

The Bautista siblings were burned beyond recognition, said Castro.

He added that the fire, which started at around 12:30 a.m., could have been triggered

by an unattended candle
"The compound did not have any electrical

connections," Castro told the Inquirer over the phone

At least 30 shanties were destroyed in the blaze which had reached the third alarm.

Fire officials pegged the damage at P1 5 million when it was put out shortly after 2.

a m. Meanwhile, a man identified as Andy Ortiz was arrested after he allegedly hit fire volun-

teer Carlos deios Santos in the face.

Ortiz, however, told the police that he accidentally hit the fireman because he was agitated about the fire

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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■ UP studes light

candles of hope for missing colleagues /A20



Artists lead cleanup of Rizal Park relief map in Luneta /A20



725-7866



FILINVEST

Fishers' group files P20-M libel suit vs Palparan

By DJ Yap and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Laxon Desk

CONTROVERSIAL ARMY MAJ. Gen. Jovito Palparan is facing a P20-million libel suit for linking some fisherfork to communist insurgents and accusing them of extorting money from fishpond owners.

In the complaint filed yesterday at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipmas (Pamalakaya) alleged Paparan defamed them through statements published in the Ix-QUIRER On July 1.

The Inquirer story, written by Tonette Orejos, quoted Patparan as saying that Pamalakaya and the party-list group Anakpawis were being "singled out" by the military for creating trouble in Bulacan.

Singled out

Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon, was quoted as saying members of the two groups were "intimidating civilians, recruiting for the [New People's Army], seizing fishponds or extorting P50,000 monthly from fishponds owners [n Bulacan] "

Paliparan made the statement to explain why leaders and members of Pamalakaya and Anakpawis were being singled out by the miletary for questioning.

lustification

"As a result of (Palparan's) statements, people began to get scared of Pamalakaya, thinking we can call the NPA when we want to," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernado Hicap.

Pamaiakaya said Palparan's campaign to "demonize" legitimate organizations could serve as justification for the military to include civilsan groups in their "all-out war" against communist rebels.

Sentra Foundation Inc. lawyer Jobert Pahilga, who assisted Pamalakaya in filing the complaint, said Palparan, who is retiring Sept. 11, could not hide behind the "mantle of privilege" as a military officer, since his statements were malicious and defamatory.

Legal association

Gerry Albert Corpus, Pamalakaya information officer, said the complaint was filed to "assert our legitimate and moral standing in Philippine society as a legal association of marginal fisherfolk across the country."

Palparan declined to comment, saying he had not received a copy of the complaint.

But he said he should be the one filing a liber case against those who had called him a "butcher" of political activists, and attributing to him direct involvement in some 500 cases of human rights violations.

Grave danger

The complaint said Palparan's statements exposed Pamalakaya officials, organizers and members to "grave danger" like extrajudicial killing, abduction, threat and harassment

Formed in 1987, Pamalakaya has 36 provincial chapters and claims a membership of 80,000

The Congress for People's Agrarian Reform cited the group in 1993 for its contributions in defense of people's rights and we_fare

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UP demands release of abducted students

By DJ Yap

MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSIty of the Philippines Diliman community in Quezon City held an indignation rally Thursday evening as they demanded the release of students Karen Empeno and Sheriyn Cadapan.

The two students were allegedly abducted while on an exposure trip to Bulacan on

"We cannot lose hope. We cannot just cry in a corner, otherwise, we would be filled with despair," said professor Joi Barrios. She added that the students were not just statistics. "We know them."

Erlinda Cadapan, Sherlyn's mother, said she drew strength from the hope that her daughter was still alive.

"What happened to Sherlyn made me stronger. I cannot be meek. I have to be strong for my daughter," she said.

teachers held a brief program at the Quezon Hall steps in front of the Oblation statue, righting candles and singing

"Ang Awit ng Pag-asa."



STUDENTS and faculty members of the University of the Philippines hold wooden crosses as they march inside the school campus to demand the release of two missing students and in protest against the growing number of political killings in the country.

The 100 or so students and from student leaders and faculty members, including National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera, a convenor of Tigil Paslang UP.

Lumbera said the students' abduction could push more stu-Messages of solidarity came dents and teachers to oppose the

Arroyo administration.

University Student Council chair Juan Paolo Alfonso said the students' disappearance highighted the threat posed by the government's crackdown on po-

Development Authority (MM-

DA) is ignoring a court injune-

tion preventing it from destroy-

ing advertising billboards and

"What happened to them could also happen to us," he

Cadapan's mother later thanked the university for supporting her light for her daugh-

MMDA ignoring Supreme Court order

THE GOVERNMENT IS IN A NOwin satuation in dealing with Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias who allegedly harbored mutinous soldiers who escaped from detention in January.

If Tobias is prosecuted, he will be bailed as a martyr. If he is left alone, the government will be perceived as weak and obsequious to the Catholic Church

The diminutive bishop is even challenging the government to charge him, saying, "I will not put up my defense let the country be my judge."

How should the government deal with Bishop Antonio Tobias? Do nothing.



Ignoring the bishop and being perceived as weak is the lesser evil than suffering a backlash as a result of putting him in jail.

Anyway, the majority of the citizens perceive their government to be weak. So, the government might as well play the part to the hilt.

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Interested building owners may submit their proposals to MAC Program Management, 7th Floor, SSS

Proposals should include the office area, offered price; complete as built plans, copy of TCT, comprehensive vicinity map with major landmarks,

pictures of the offered space, and Board Resolution on the

authorized signatory if the building is owned by a corporation. Incomplete proposels shall not be

Mr. Rogello Funtelar of MAC Program Management in the

above address with telephone number 920-64-01 local

any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the proponents in the preparation of their offers

Deadline of submission of proposals shall be on

Further information or inquiries may be made to

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without assuming any obligation whatsoever for

(Sgd.) Mario R. Sibucao

Chairperson, RC Task Force

with drainage system e) It must not be prone to flooding

the following minimum criteria.

It seems the Metro Manila

signs on structures belonging to the government-run Metro Rail Transit Corp. The MRT structures include the big posts on Edsa. The injunction came from no less than the Supreme Court. The ad agency under contract with MRT, Trackworks, sued the

But the MMDA continues to tear down the ad billboards even after the high court has

MMDA to prevent it from tear-

ing down its advertising bill-

come out with the injunction. Either MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is courting the ire of the Supreme Court or he is completely ignorant of the injunction.

The new Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon told by reporters that his name means "battering ram" in Spanish, Esperon quipped that he would batter the military rebels.

The Pinoy crab mentality is again at work in the private modern grains terminal in Sariaya, Quezon, reputed to be the biggest in Southeast Asia

The terminal is equipped with the latest top-of-the-line cargo handling and unloading facilities brought in from Europe and the Ututed States. It also has the only natural 18meter deep water port in Southeast Asia. The terminal was built by a completely Piipino-owned firm at a cost of P3.2 billion.

Yet even before it is formally inaugurated, certain parties are already subjecting the facility to incessant attacks. First was the accusation that the port was being used for smugglizig. This was proven false by an on-the-spot inspection by customs authorities.

Now, some people are trying to discourage grains producers and traders from using the terminal, alleging that the facility lacks infrastructure support and is located far from Manila.



ONF OF Rizal Park's famous attractions, the giant relief map, is the object of a cleanup campaign initiated by

Manila artists lead cleanup of park relief map in Luneta

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A GROUP OF ARTISTS HAS launched a clean-up campaign for the Philippines, in miniature. Members of Dakila (Philippine

Collective for Modern Heroism) brought brooms, brushes and paint to the Rizal Park in Manila yesterday to clean up the rehef map near Taft Avenue

the Philippines. Cleaning it would (call) attention to the country's present lamentable condition," Len. Veiasco of Dakila said in an interview.

Velasco said they started cleaning the map in January and had removed silt and mud.

They are now repainting the entire map. A free concert was acso held yesterday featuring afternative and rock groups Parokya ni Edgar, Typecast, Cherry Comflakes and Radioactive Sago Pro-

Velasco said Dakila was advocating social awareness among other artists and audiences

"We also hope to educate, in-The map is a fitting symbol of still awareness and inspire involvement among the youth, creating venues for them to express their patrionsm, unlizing art as a means of expression," she added.

in September, the organization will clean up Manila Bay as part of the Clean Up the World Campaign.

INVITATION TO LEAST OFFICE SPACE

Army won't stage coup -Thai top commander

BANCKOK-THAHAND'S TOP MILL tary commender Priday insisted that the armed forcer would not stage a coup, rejecting rumors that have swirted around Bangkok amid deepening political uncertainty.

Supreme military commander Gen. Ruengroj Mahasaranond has repeatedly denied coup rumors that have floated around the Thai capita, since the political crisis broke out in January.

But the rumors have reignited in the last two weeks, with That media speculating on a possible rift in the ranks between those aligned with Prime Minister Thaksin Sh nawatra and those against him

"Since early this year, I have reassured all of you many times that there's no coup. All the press have written about this for groundless reasons," he told reporters

Corp. to improve its system for re-

sponding to faulty vehicles following

police allegations of a defect cover-up

government's instructions for the

world's second-largest automaker to

share and monitor information relat-

ed to recalls more effectively among

president Katsuald Watanabe apolo-

gized in connection with a probe by

Japanese pouce over a senies of defects.

failed for about eight years to re-

spond to a defect in a sports utility ve-

Local police allege that Toyota

The rebuke came a day after Toyota

d fferent sections of the company

Toyota's management accepted the

"The military will stay clear of pouties and will not bring more harm to the country by staging a coup," he said.

"Our military is disciplined and wall not do anything outside our authority" he added. "The politicians and all the parties must find their own way to solve the problem."

Fears of a coup gained momentum Wednesday, after the routine annual reshuffle of mid-leve, army personnel that saw the army chief, Gen Sonthi Boonyaratagun, send 129 mid-level commanders to posts out of Bangkok

Many of them are believed to be classmates of Thaksin when he was in training to become a police officer before he started the business career that made him a billionaire

Thaksin has insisted that the reshuffle was "an internal army affair"

Thatland, which has a long history

rattied by coup fears since protesters took to the streets in February to demend Thaksin's resignation over al-

Top m: litary brass, including Ruengroj and Sonthi, have repeatedly deed the rumors and insisted that the days of military intervention in poli-

Thaksin called snap elections on April 2 to end the protests. His party won, but the victory was undermined by an opposition boycott, leading the Constitutional Court to invalidate the

New elections tentatively set for Oct 15 were cart into doubt ear ier this month when the court agreed to consider vote fraud charges against Thaksin's ruling That Rak Thai and the main opposition Democrat Party. AFP



stry on Friday ordered Toyota Motor - tains that it acted appropriately. "But we recognize that things could have been different if there was a system to share information among the different sections of the company," Toyota vice president Masatami Takimoto said following the government order.

Toyota in October 2004 recalled about 330,000 Hillax Surf vehicles

Three Toyota officials face alleganons of professional negligence for failing for eight years before that to issue a recall after learning the vehicle had a defective relay rod linking the steering wheel to the front wheels

"The recall could have been done earaet," Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Kazuo Kitagawa told a news conference, Kyodo News reported

"Toyota had some problems including the absence of records on consideration of past information and the lack of close in-house communications," he added

Police in southern Kumamoto Prefecture who conducted the probe referred the case to prosecutors last week, saying the defect had resulted in at least one accident in August 2004 that left five people injured

Toyota's internal investigation revealed that it had received reports of 82 defect cases by the time of the 2004 recall but the company had only reported 11 of those cases because it lacked the fu., details of the others.



THIS IS THE WAY MY TEETH ARE BRUSHED

"Thug," one of London zoos' two pygny hippo, opens wide to have his teath brushed and checked by a lossper July 20. The hippos' teeth are regularly cleaned using a broom but now they each have their own brush. Pygny hippos originate from west Africa, but the ones in London have the advantage of a daily clean and check and if required a visit from a dentist, we

Hopes for justice dim with Khmer Rouge chief's death



KHMER Rouge Army Chief To Mak at his headquarters in Antony Veng, Cambodia, on April 20, 1996

Khiner Rouge commander Ta-Mok has dimmed hopes that a tribunal established to try former regime leaders will find justice for the victims of Cambodia's genocide, analysts said

Tit Mok, one of only two top Khmer Rouge cadre in custody, died aged 80 early Priday after being admitted to hospital late last month with respiratory problems.

He was likely to have been the first person indicted in the tribunal, which got under way this month after nine years of sometimes hostile negotiations between the United Nations and Cambodia over the joint proceedings

But even with prosecutors having started their investigations, Ta-

PHNOM PENH-THE DEATH OF Mok's death underscored the need for swift justice, analysts said, warning that the aging former regime teaders could all go to their graves without standing before the court.

"We lost a key witness," Kek Galabra of the Cambodian human rights group Licadho, said of Ta Mok's death

"If this tribuna, takes too long, one-by-one they (Khmer Rouge cadre) will die and the dead cannot talk. .. We appeal for the tria. to be sped up-just do it quickly," she told AFP

The Mok's death seaves only Duch, the director of the Khmer Rouge's Tuoi Sieng torture center, in custody on genocide charges. and it is unclear who else might be summoned to the tribunal

Up to two million people were executed or died of starvation and overwork between 1975 and 1979 when the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, forced millions into the countryside in their attempt to create an agraman utopia

Por Por died in 1998 and surviv ing members of the regime, includ-ing top deputy Nuon Chea, former head of stitle Khieu Samphan and ex-Foreign Manister leng Sary are in their 70s and 80s, prompting fears that they too could die before

facing justice. Prel: minary investigations in the \$56-million tribunal are expected to wrap up rater this year, with trials to start in mid-2007.

Tribunai officials admowledge that they lost key evidence with the

death of Ta Mok, who was likely to have restified against other regime members, but maintain the credibil ity of the tribunai will not be hurt

But genocide researcher Youk Chhang, whose Documentation Center of Cambodia has worked for years compaing evidence of Klumer Rouge atrocities, said Th Mok's passing will cause Combodians to call the process area question.

"Imagine what is going to happen to all the victims who have waited for so long-Ta Mok died in hospital without a clear explanation about (what happened during the regime)," he said

"It impacts the victims' perception of how much hope there is (for justice) ... it's not a good be ginning at all."

AFP

Republic of the Philippines Municipality of General MacArthur Province of Eastern Samar Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: July 20, 2008 Loan No. 4299-PH IFB No. SEF-GMA-GOODS-01-2008

- 1. The Governmen, of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Finance (DOF) has received a loan from the international Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies. towards the financing of Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this journ will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of 4 Units Brand New & Wheeler Cardo Truck with Drop Side Body and 3 Units Brand New 4-Wheeler Cargo
- Truck with Drop Side Body The Municipality of General MacArthur, Eastern Samar, now invites

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	4 WHEELER BRAND NEW CARGO TRUCK WITH DROP SIDE BODY	3
2	B WHEELER BRAND NEW CARGO TRUCK WITH DROP SIDE BODY	4

- interested eligible bidders may purchase or inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of BAC Chairman, Municipal Half, Gen. MecArthur, Eastern Sessar, Yel. (055) 575-2035 / (055) 575-2040
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting July 35, 2008 - Reptember 12, 2006 upon submission of a Letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable tee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00),
- interested eligible bidders may submit bid for one (1) or two (2) lots.
- The provisions in the instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, Procurement of Goods
- Bids must be delivered to the BAC Chairman, Manicipality of Gen. MacArthur Eastern Samer on or belone 2:00 p.m. on September 13, 2006 and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) for Lot 1 only or One Hundred Fifty Thousand Peeos (Php 150,000.00) for Lot 2 only or Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 200,000 00) for both Let 1 & 2 in the form of Crish Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to altend on September 13, 2006 2.00 p.m. at the Municipal Conference Hall, Municipality of Gan. MacArthur,
- Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 30, 2006, 2:06 p.m. at the address indicated in paragraph &

PER AND READ MADE

(Sgd.) ENGR PONCIANO L. THONG, JR. Chairman, Bide and Awards Committee



Republic of the Philippines

invitation to Apply for Eligibility and in Bid PROCUREMENT OF THI SUPPLIES AND THI DRUGS FOR CHILDREN

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Inhanessed Budders may obtain for their efformation from the Procedement Division and imprecision for Budders, Documents, at the address given below from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Moredays to Fraterys

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Budding from the address below and upon payment of a work-relambable like in the amount of two Trousand Presinger Pesos (PIPP 2,000 ct) and the above-membraned procurement. Payment shall be sincerty on a cost basis — a same; Documents what be sincered personantly by the prospective Bilding or his author read representations.

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Department of Health San Luzzen Com-ING Str. Onc. ephone No. 743-43-49 (next 1625 and 1636 star No. 741-87-75

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinus

INDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

ELEBIAN FOR EXCEPTION OF INTEREST AND TO RID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) shvilles pros. •c. ve consulter s to exply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and short-listed to bid for the Conduct of Consumer Expectations Survey (CES) for one (1) Quarter per BSP Terms of Reference

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this connultancy services

The scope of the work includes among others, the conduct of 4th quarier survey which would cover all 17 regions in the country including ARMM (I possible. Each major area shall have a sample size or about 2,500 households or a total of 5,000 samples nationwide. The Comultania responsibilities shall lockede. a) survey design b) conduct of survey (e.g. survey enumeration/data collection. Field supervision, field editing, and sit here's and c) data encoding and processing as specified in the

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective consultants shell be checked using a non-thecrationary "pass#fall" oritarie. Interested consultants must meet the following criteris

- 1.0 The prospective consultants must have a minimum of two (2) years experience in the conduct of netionwide surveys
- 2.0 The prospective consultants must have a minimum of five (5) computers that can be used for date encoding purposes
- The prospective consultants must have at least five (5) technical staff each with at least two (2) years experience in the conduct of surveys. The Permanent Survey Director/Manager to be energied to this project must be at least a degree holder.
- 4.0. The prospective consultants must have a bank deposit of at least

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall availate bide using the Quality. Cost Basec Approach procedure through a weighted scoring system that simultaneously considers both the overall technical quality of the proposal and the Reproduction (60-40). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the instructions to Bidders.

The list of eligibility requirements may be obtained from the BAC Secretarist on <u>July 14-78, 2006</u> upon submission of a *ferter of intend* a upon payment of a non-refundable (se of P698.86).

interested suppliers must submit the eligibility requirements to the BAC Room MR2A, 2nd Floor Five Storey Building, corner A Methni and P Ocampo Sr Streets, Melate, Manita, not later than 1 August 2006, 2,69

Bid documents will be mailable only to short-fisted bidders (top 5 shell be considered) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,540.08 to the

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract attail apply

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no resurance that a contract shall be entered into an a metal of this invitatio Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or less that may be incurred in the preparation of bid not does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made

(Sgd., JUAN DE ZURIGA, JR.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Guego

Israel eyes ground attack on Lebanon

BEIRUT—ISRAEL POUNDED LEBANON FROM THE AIR ON Friday and one general said it might soon expand ground operations in its bloody assault on Hezboliah guerrillas

After 10 days of relentless bombardment which has destroyed much of Lebanon's infrastructure, Israel has been unable to stop Hezbollah firing rockets into the Jewish state, raising the possibility that it may have to push across the border in strength.

"It's possible that in the coming days our ground operations will increase," Brig. Gen. Alon Friedman told Maariv newspaper. "We have many forces, we will carry out a massive recruitment of reserves and it's possible that many more forces ... will reach the border in the next few days."

As thousands more foreigners were evacuated from Berrut, four Israeli troops were killed in fierce battles with Hezbouah guerrillas just inside Lebanon on Thursday, the Israeli army said. Hezbollah said it lost two fighters in the clashes.

Israel said two of its helicopters collided near the Lebanese border, killing a pilot and anjuring three crewmen.

Elite Israeli troops have been launching small-scale raids in Lebanon to my to stop Hezboliah, a Shifte Islamist group backed by Syria and Iran, from firing rockets into Israel.

Israel began its assault after Hezbollah captured two soidiers and killed eight in a cross-border raid on July 12. It has also waged a military campaign in Gazz since June 28 to recover another soidier, seized by Paiestinian militants.

Its campaign has killed at least 312 people in Lebanon, the vast majority civilians, and displaced half a miljion.

Therty-four Israell troops and civilians have been killed.

Israeli. Prime Minester Ehad Ohners said the war against Hezbollah would continue "until we reach a point where the marginal usefulness that is building to continue the military operation will not be worth the price."

Israelis still overwhelmingly back the war, with 90 percent wanting it to go on until Hezboliah is driven from southern Lebanon and 95 percent saying the army's response was justified, a poll in Maariv newspaper showed on Friday.

Despite the assault, Hezbollah is still firing rockets at Israeli towns and combating Israeli troop incursions.

israel has been wary of launching a fullscale invasion in south Lebanon, only six years after it ended a 22-year occupation that was resisted by relentless Hezbollah attacks.

Israeli jets bombed Shite districts in Beirut, the eastern Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon around sunnse on Friday and strick a bridge on the main Beirut-Damascus highway four times.

The Mdeires bridge has already been bombed twice

In other raids, israeli aircraft hit parked goods wans in the Bekaa, and a private power generator and garbage trucks in Beitur's Christian suburb of Baabda, near the presidential palace. There were no reports of casualties in the strikes. Reuters



A TERRIFIED British national carrying a child runs toward a RAF Chinook helicopter during a massive evacuation operation in Beirut port July 20. "It was pure chaos," an evacuee described Beirut.

As bombs rain, dead must wait

TYRE, LEBANON—CARPENTERS ARE running out of wood for coffins Bodies are stacked three or four high in a truck at the local hospital morgue. The stench is spreading in the rubble.

The morbid reality of Israel's bombing campaign of the south is reaching aimost every corner of this city. Just a few miles from the Rest House hotel, where the United Nations was evacuating civilians on Thursday, wild dogs gnawed at the charred remains of a family bombed as they were trying to escape the village of Hosh, officials said

Officials at the Tyre Government Hospital inside a local Patestinian refugee comp said they counted the bodies of 50 children among the 115 in the refugerated truck in the morgue, though their count could not be independently confirmed.

Abdelmutsin al-Husseini, Tyre's mayor, announced on Thursday that any bodies not claimed within the next two days by next of kin would be buried temporarily in a mass grave near the morgue until they could receive a proper burial once the fighting ends.

"I am asking the families, if they can come here, to claim the bodies," said Husseiri, whose bloodshot eyes himed at his mad stramble to secure food rations and bring some order to the city. "Otherwise, we have no choice but to bury them in mass graves."

With the roads and bridges to many surrounding villages bombed out, few families have been able to come to the hospital to claim their dead

For those relatives who reach the morgue, conducting a proper burial is impossible while the bombing continues. Many have opted to leave the bodies at the morgue until the conflict ends.

The morgue has had to order more than 100 coffins

"What? He wants a hundred?" a local corpenter said, half shocked, half perplexed.
"Where the hell am I going to get enough wood to build that many coffins?" NYT

Thousands of evacuees flood into packed Cyprus

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS—THOUsands of tired, frightened evacnees fleeing Israel's bombardment of Lebanon flooded into Cyprus on Friday, sparking warnings by officials that the small istand may not be able to cope with the influx

ibly relieved to have escaped the relentless aerial bombing, disembarked overnight in the port of Larnaca from USS Nashville after being rescued by US for 2 India

About the same number arrived at the port of Limassol on a cruise liner chartered by the LIS government

"They (the Israel.s) are targeting civilians. They call themselves civilized, but they are barbaric. I don't want my kid to grow up like that," said Habib Kheil, a professor of mathematics from Mich.san.

"We arrived two days before (the bombardment) started. The children were so scared, they buddled all together and stayed in the lowest part of the house," he said, breaking into sobs and hugging his 8-year-old son Ab-

Detchwoman Amna Chourair, a 30-year-old mother of two who has lived in Lebanon for 10 years, said she still hoped in return to ber adopted home

"We left everything behind ... It is such a waste. Hopefully we will be back soon. The kids have a life there."

US officials said they had arranged six charter flights to car ry Americans from Cyprus to Baltimore free of charge. They expect to have evacuated 6,000 Americans from Lebanon by Friday.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Georgios Lillikas said his country, with a population of just under a million, was struggling to deal with the crisis and he repeated his call to Nicosia's European Union partners to help share the burden.

"Cyprus is the only country in the EU which is offering as facilties to this extent. Because of our size we don't have the ability to respond to the numbers of citi-

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS—THOU- zens of third countries." he told sands of tired, frightened evac- state radio

"We are in a dilemma as a government either to continue our humanitarian efforts with the means we have or do what others do and not a low non-Europeans to use Cyprus and not offer services to leave," he

"We would rather that never happened," Lulikas said.

He said Cyprus was bracing for 20,000 Canadians and 1,000 Indians shortly among many other evacuees. Officials say they expect an average of 4,000 people arriving each day, putting great strain on resources at the peak summer

tourist season.

Ships from Italy, Britain, Greece and India also docked in Cyprus overnight, carrying people of diverse nationa (ties)

A Cypriot vesse, chartered by the United Nationa brought 1,000 passengers at Larnaca. Many seemed shaken by their ordea.

"There was shelling throughout Beirut during the time we were moored there. It was obviously distressing to those coming out," said UN security officer Si-

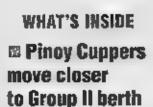
Some passengers described scenes of chaos in Beirut as they tried to board the waiting boats.

"It was pure chaos. They should have let women with children first, or some sort of arrangement, but there was a stampede," said Rolla Weed, 31, from Orange County, California

Washington says nine military ships are involved in its massive evacuation, operation, which brought the Marines back in Lebanon nearly 23 years after a Shite Mussim sincide bomber blew up their barracks in Beirut, killing more than 200

Many tearful evacuees were concerned about families they left behind. "I know I am safe now," said Austranan student Sherean Irani, 19, who had been visiting relatives in Lebanon and had hoped to study there. "But my heart is with Lebanon." Reuters





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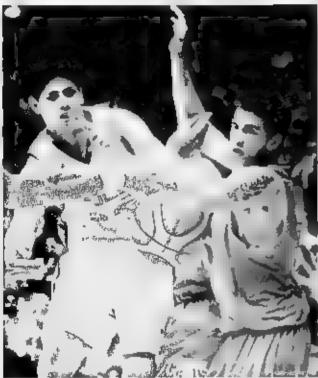
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Text us your feedback: inquirer spri name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart). Woods back: Jimenez surges to early lead/A26





RED Buil's Enrico Villanueva slips a pass of Purefoods' Marc Pingris in their PBA Finals game last night. The teams were still playing at presstime.

PSC firm on ₱30-M Asian Games budget

OFFICIALS SWEAR IT WOULD not be enough, but the Philippine delegation to the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in December will have to make do with a P30-million budget.

The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) yesterday stood firm on the figure regardless of how many wil. eventually comprise Team Philippines in the Dec 1 La quadrenniai meer.

"Even before the start, I felt that P30 million is not enough," said sports commissioner Ritchie Garcia during the weekly SCOOP sa Kamayan session on Padre Faura, Manda

But that has been our scand. No matter the size of the delegation, we just have to work ou that budger."

Two days ago, the executive board of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) approved tlots for 187 athletes and 107 officials for the RP contingent to this year's Asiad.

It said the figures would go higher with the inclusion of athletes in ream events like softball, water polo, baseball and basketball.

"Right now, they are birting at about 290," said Garcia in the session sponsored by Accel. "But based on the budger available, the delegation should only be about 250-260."

Armed with a a P70 mission budget, the Philippines sent a 359-strong desegation to the Busan Asiad four years ago. The contingent brought home three gold medals, one each in bowling.

billiants and equestran.
PSC chair William "Burch" Ramirez, also a guest in yesterday's session, said the government sports agency might seek cash from other sources — ambassador to the Philippines.

"Historically, there had been unforeseen expenses while we were competing in international competitions," said Ramirez, who is also Chef de Mission of the RP contingent in the Asiad.

"We have to be prepared for that. We have to be flexible (in using funds)."

Garcia said that for Team Philippenes to achieve the ideal contingent size the selection of athretes should strictly adhere to the criteria laid down by the Asian Cames Task Force and that the number of officials should be minimized.

Rammez said that to save on funds, the PSC would send only 10 men, to be headed by com-missioner Joey Mundo, to Doha.

Commissioner Leon Montemayor will be left behind as officer-in-charge while commissioner Ambrosio de Luna will go to Qetar as guest of its



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Sports

RP-Air21 suffers 1st loss, seeks final berth vs HK

7 p.m.---US vs China

8:30 p.m .-- Hong Kong vs RP-Air21

HONG KONG-RPAIR21 PUT UP a brave stand but got cramped by manpower shortage in the closing minutes to how to the Asian-American Sports Club, 79-97, at the close Eastcolight-Super Kung Cheung Cup international invitational basketball tournament at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Orphaned by the absence of brothers Yancy and Ranidei de Ocampo, who had to rush back to Manila following the untimely

death of their father early Thursday morning, the Filipinos held their ground and battled their Southern California-based rivals on even terms until the final five minutes of the tightly-fought contest

The Filipmos and the Amencans, already assured of semifinal berths after winning their first

like a championship match.

The game was tied for the last time at 71-al: with 5:13 remaining before a closing 26-8 min by the Americans, highlighted by five three-point shots, completely turned the game around

The disqualification of PBA slam

two matches, treated the game duak champion K.G. Canaleta and team captain Wynne Arboteda on successive technical fouls also took its toli on the Filipines.

RP-Air21 will now meet defend ing champion and Group A topnotcher Hong Kong (3-0) in the crossover sentifinal et 8:30 p.m. today. The Americans, who topped

Group B with three straight wins, will take on China Basketbas Association (CBA) champion Winnerway Tigers of China (2-1) in the other semifinal match.

"The boys did their best, but the breaks did not go our way in the closing minutes," said RP-Air21 coaches Bo Perasol and Johny Tam.

Pinoy Cuppers move closer to Group II berth

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIL-AMERICANS ERIK TAINO AND CECIL Mamilt and homegrown stars JP Tierro and Johnny Arcilla played just hard enough to whitewash the Vietnamese yesterday as the Philippines stook another step closer to regaining its old berth in the tougher Davis Cup Group II yesterday

Tamo started off the 3-0 RP victory with a 6-0, 6-1 thrashing of Tranh Huang Tran before Mamiit fended off Minh Quang Do. 7-5, 5-7, 6-1, in the second singles

Arcilla then paired with Tierro in a 6-3, 7-5 defeat of Quang Tri Lam and Tran that capped yet another dom nating performance by the Filipinos in the on going Group III zonals at the Manila Polo Club

The third straight victory, all scored via 3-0 routs, moved the Philippines into the roundrobin phase of the tournament from which the best two teams will advance to Davis Cup-Group II play next year. The Filipinos will carry its 3-0 record into the round.

"I'm beginning to smell Davis Cup Group II again," said Arcilla, who has played for the RP Davis Cup team since 1999

The Philippines will no longer take on the tother qualifler from Group A, Sri Lanka, which it branked in last Tuesday's tournament

Iran swept Group B as well and advanced

to the next round with Saudi Arabia

The Filipinos clash with the Saudis (2-1) starting at 10:30 a.m. today.

Arcida and Tierro appeared bent on finishing off the Vietnamese early, whipping up winners from a I corners of the court to fluster

But the locals let their guard down in the second set, allowing Lam and Tran, working behind forehand winners and service aces, to move within 4-5

Games went according to serve after that as the Fi pino duo sewed up the match in one hour and 15 mountes.

"They just wouldn't fade away," said Arcil-

"The team is p aying very well, I think we can compete decently in Group II, even in Group I," said the United States based Taino who took the doubles gold meda. with Mamüt and the mixed doubles hitle with Riza Zalameda in the 2005 Southeast

The Philippines vied in the elite Group I in 1990 with current non-playing slopper Roland So one of its mainstays. But poor form soon after relegated the country to Group II the following year and to Group III in 2000

From 2000 to 2005, the Philippines regained Group II status but got demoted again to Group III after a miserable showing in successive Asia-Oceania nes



THE PHILIPPINES' Frederick Taino has his eyes on the ball against. Vietnam's Thanh Hoang Tranball during Davis Cup competitions at the Manila Polo Club yesterday. Taino won, 6-0, 6-1.

Ozamiz five forces NBC title decider

OZAMIZ CITY REIGNING TITLIST OZAMIZ Cotta ted all the way and bested expansion team Pagadian, 74-66. Thursday night to leve, their best-of-three series for the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketbail crown at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta Shrine cagers led by seven points at the end of the Birst quarter and never looked back as they limited the Explorers' top two gunners-expros Peter Naron and Bong Marata-to 11 points each, only half of their combined output when Pagadian took Game 1, 97-80.

"We were embarrassed with the way we played in Pagadian in Game 1," said Ozamiz coach Ambert Caivo. "I just told the boys that as defending champions, we should be more aggressive. They responded pretty we l."

Ozamiz Cotta and Mayor Sammy Co's Explor ers were disputing the title at presstime yesterday.

Marlon Basco flashed his old form to pace Ozamiz with 19 points and spoil Pagadian's title bid in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Poods, Firefly Lightings. Molten and Prime Channe.

Ozamiz was ourrebounded 43-49, but showed better teamwork, finishing with 19 assists against Pagadian's seven. The Ozamiz cagers also forced the Explorers to commit 17 turnovers

Pagadian's Michael Orqui las and Lou Gatumbato tried to rally their team, but their combined 33-point performance (el. short

OZAM.Z 74-Basco 19, Cavan 10, Bansil 9, Samplio 9. Alberto B, Llangco B, Guerrero S, llanga 4, Echavez 2. Yabut 1 Alvarado 0, Delina 0

PARADIAN 66-Orquillas 18, Gatumbato 15, Neron 11 Marata 11, Daja 8, Salud 3, Singco 2, Cortez 0, Gaynta C. Ayuk O, Omandam O Pamoran O

of China, 11 21, 17-21

Quarters: 21 14, 38-32 59-55, 74-56



goalkeeper Louis Navarro parries a shot by Irok FC's Rea Villa (7) In a women's match in the 2006 Adidas **Futsal** Champion-

LA SALLE

Air Force, Army part ways

Fand Army part ways today when they clash in the 2006 Adidas Fursas Championship at the Blue Eagles Gym in Kampunan, Quezon City.

Expect fireworks when Emelio Caligdong, Air Porce's prolific scorer, matches skills with the highscoring pair of Army's Luis Brillances and Wilson dela Cruz in the featured match set at 5 p.m. in the tournament sponsored by Adidas, with the Nationa. Capital Region Football Association.

Both Air Force and Army core 5-0-0 win-drawloss records going into the match. Marines-B (1-0-4) and El Magistrado of the men's Second Division-B open hostilities (4-0-1) at 2 p.m.

Minam, which only has a draw to show after against Archers Luce (2-0-3) at 3 p.m.

POWERHOUSE CO-LEADERS AIR FORCE six games, and Vintage Pootball Club (3-1-1) corade in the ione women's match at 3 p.m.

> Pageor at 4 p.m., Superfriends tests the mettle of Navy (0-1-4) at 6 p.m., while Veterans FC (2-0takes on Kaya FC in the last match at 7 p.m.

> Tomorrow, Union PC (5-0-0) stakes its spor iess record in men's Second Division-B against Lions FC (3-0-1) at 4 p.m., while University of Asia and the Pacific (4-0-0) times to stay tim scathed against Ateneo (2-0-3) in men's Second Division-A at 1 p.m. Other men's matches pit AFP Selection (4-0-1) against Los Merrengues (0-0-4) at 2 p.m. and Los Borrachos (2-0-2)

In other men's matches, Marine A takes on

points each in the event sanctioned by the Auto-

so of Team Ere, Conrado Estrada of Team Ready-Ado Motors and Jose Uy of Blanche Racing share top spot with 15 points each

Rivera or Neison Gayola at (632) 817 2241, 729 5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

begins today; HAU favorite

HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY IN PAMPANGA will be back to defend both its boys' and girls' regional crowns in the Luzon-Adidas Streethall Challenge which fires off today at the University of the Cordilleras, formerly Baguio Cotleges Poundation.

The two defending champions are among 48 teams, 36 of them in the boys' section, competing in the regional tournament, according to local organizer Leo Arnaiz.

Expected to crowd Holy Angel University for the crown in the one-day tournament are University of Baguio, St. Louis University, University of the Cordilleras and Assumption College from Pampanga

The champion teams in the two divisions will earn a trip to the national finals of the 2006 Adidas Streetball Challenge set Aug. 12-13 at the Mail of Asia in Manila where they will clash with the other regional champions from Mindanao, Visayas and Metro Manila.

"Despite the storms that hir Baguio recently, we are prepared to hold the tournament which has drawn teams from as far as Pampanga, La Union and Pangasinan," said Amaiz, brother of former PBA superstar Francis Amaiz who also conducts regular basketball clinics in Baguin City.

Adidas Sports marketing manager Goody Custodio said the boys' national champion will be sent to Guangzhou, China, to vie in the Asian Streetball Challenge set Aug. 25 to 27 He said this will be the last year for the 3-on-3 Streethall tournament as Adidas will be shifting to a 5-on-5 format next year

Expected to grace the opening ceremonies in Baguio are newly appointed Adidas Phils. managing director Joey Singian, PR manager Odette Velarde, and Custodio, together with thus year's tournament organizers. Futures Sports and Events Management Corp., headed by Donded Pasion, tournament director Jay Salvador and Nino Stneo.

Streetball tilt Asuncions stay alive Mores yielded to Eric Pang of the THE PHILIPPINES SUFFERED Netherlands, 10-21, 13-21, while

heavy casualnes Thursday night, including Kennie Asuncion in the women's singles, and was left with the RP mixed doubles bets of Kennie and Kennevic to continue the fight in the Macau Open bad

minton championships. Three men's doubles team fell one after another, even as first-round winners in the men's singles Christopher Flores and Wally Fernandez hat the dead-end after a day of cut throat competitions in the five-star

giving in (21-18, 15-21, 21-23) The 28-year-old Kennie wil. pair with her brother in the mixed

doubles where they are nitted against lower-ranked tandems.

Fernandez bowed to Bao Chun La

with a decent game against Chi-

nese Talper's Lin Chuan, hacking

out a 21-19 first-set triumph before

Asunción managed to come up

The Asuncions are No. 21 in the world. Marc Anthony Reyes

SPORTSWATCH

Makati Coliseum 5-cocker finals TODAY IS THE GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP OF SALPUKAN SA TAGLUGON 5-COCK derby at the Maket Coliseum, with more than 100 fights. Sponsor is 8-Meg Derby Ace. After five days of elimination rounds, 57 participants with two wins each ad-

vanced to the 3-cock finals which will start at 2 p.m. Gunning for the top prize of P2 million plus a brand new Ford Escape are Roger Segismundo, Noncy Gonzaiss, Wilmer Ting, William Co, C. Malapitan, Rey Briones, Honey Yu, Eddle Araneta, Efren Cantes, Nick Asuncjon, Butchoy Otano, Lito Cay, Manny Pacquiao, Pol Estreflado, Raymond Velayo, Emil Chua, Ching Morales, Louis Cua, Osang dela Cruz and Boy Marso, Call 895-6475 and 896-3545

Super Fastest Win stakes P.5M today WITH MORE THAN 120 MATCHES ON TAP SAN JUAN COLISEUM'S SUPER.

fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan takes the apollight at 7 a.m. today. The guaranteed prize is P500,000 for an entry fee of P1 100. Each winner will get P1,000 as bonus The tastest win champion will get the top prize of P75,000; second, P30,000; third, P15,000: fourth, P10,000; 5th to 10th place, P5,000: 11th to 20th, P3,000: 21st to 30th, P2,000 and 31st to 50th, P1 000. Likewise the first 10 winners will receive a mountain blks. The SJC management also announced the staging of Bobbit Pies' Rabatitat 4-cock derby Aug. 2

Gaffers derby at Las Piñas tonight

regular gaffers based at Las Piñas colliseum Will Hold the express 2-cock derby beginning at 7 tonight with 45 lights lined up. The derby, with an entry fee of P3,300, will be supported by former Mayor Nene Aguillar and collisium manager Alex Tobias. Set July 27 is the Fastesi Win One-Cock Jillutan with Alex Tobias and Yoyoy Dahonog as hoets. The guaranteed prize is P230,000 for an entry fee of P1 100. The fastest win champion will get the jackpot prize of P75,000. Meanwhile, the annual Las Piñas 6-stag derby will be held on Aug. 24 and 26. Screening of stags, eight to 10 months old, will start Aug. 1 Call 873-1040 and 874-3910



LA SALLE-ATENEO: The De La Salle Alumni Association and the Atened Golf Foundation signs an extension agreement in favor of Fil-Estate Golf/Club Leisure Management Corp. to run and operate the La Salle-Atoneo Match Play. Seated (from left): Jay Gervacio, president DLSAA; Lito Tanjuatco, chair DLSAA; Robert John Sobrepeña, chair, FEGDI; Iggy Clavecilla, president, AGF; and Andy Dumlao. Standing are Tito Avencaria and Peng Perez de Tagle.

Jota, Tiu brace for showdown

INTENSE COMPETITION IS EXPECTED WHEN the 2006 Red Horse National Drag Racing Championship stages its fourth leg roday at the drag strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit

Dave Jora of Bianche Racing and Jonathan Titl of Team Ere will break their be for the lead in the premier Quick 8 division. Jora, with two wins since the series kicked off last April, and Tiu, who holds the track record of 11.092 seconds, have 15

mobile Association Philippines.

In the Pro class division, Marvin Suzara al-

Contact BRC operations manager Rodin.

Tans shine; Paref-Springdale scores

CEBU-SIBLINGS EDSEL AND all individual plum, and her Emylou Tan gave Bethany two indiyounger sister followed suit by edgvidual titles even as Paref-Springdale and Sacred Heart expectedly romped off to runaway wins us ream play at the close of the 2nd Samsung Vismin Interscholastic Golf Championships at the Cebu Country Club course here. Edsel Tan sparkled with 52

points, equivalent to two-over-par

ing two CIE bets for the top award in the girls' special division. Sacred Heart went an the way in the boys' high school division with Franz Josel Olea firing 43 and

Charles Danuel Uy and Franz Dy contributing 40 each for 123 for the day and 359 for three days, giving them a 64-point victory over Parefin medal play in capturing the over- Springdale. The fourth member of

the team was Kento Nakada whose 35 didn't count.

Paref Springdale crused to a 15point win over University of St. La. Saile in the boys' grade school competitions. Angelo Jose Gandionco scored 39 white Martin Mendoza and Jhan Uy backed hum up with 34 and 18, respectively, for a three-day aggregate of 266.

The team trophies in the girls division were won by CIE in high

school college play and Our Lady of Lourdes-Bukidnon in the grade school bracket

The Interscholastics was also sponsored by KZG, Custom Clubmakers, Sunboit, C-Lam Fibre, Taylormade, Titleist, Microtel inn &

With Tan winning the overa.l plum, Chepe Dulay of University of St. La Salie took the high school division individual title.

New PBA team's nightmares

IN HUDDLE

ALTHOUGH HE has won three games and lost none in the oncoing 2006 UAAP wars. Ateneo head coach Norman Black said winning has not been easy for him and the Blue Eagles.

"Every team is Beth Celis highly competitive this year, every vic-

tory is hard-earned, said Norm, heaving a sigh of relief after the Blue Eagles squeaked past the Leo Austria-mentored Adamson Faccons by a point last Thursday.

Norman admitted he is feeting the absence of 6'8" Japeth Aguilar, who is now based in the United States and is aiming to take a crack at the NBA in the near future.

"I have a very good team, but we would have been more effective with a big defensive asset ake Japeth," Norm and

UE headcoach Dindo Pumaren shares Norman's observation.

"Pantay-pantay ngayon ang lakas ng riga teams. With Ln Salle out, every squad is a potential for the Fina. Four. Holos lahat ng games, very close. Ang ganda ngang panoorin," Dindo said.

The Warmors, fancied as the team to beat this season, currently hold a 2-0 record. They have defeated Adamson and the FEL Tamaraws (in overtime)

Remember Ed Carvaya,, the 6'6" Crispa cager who survived a massive stroke caused by a congenital aneutysm back in the early

Completely incapacitated at such an early age, Ed has been unheard of since. A sot of people, including myself have been wondering how he is now.

Well, very recently, I was surprised to receive word about Ed from a friend who is in touch with his relatives.

She was happy to report that, after all these years-decades in fact-the former MIGAA cager is still very much a live

Jofortunately, his condition has hardly improved over the decades. He is still incapacitated.

The incident happened over 30 years ago, when Ed was in his early 20's, if I remember correctly.

He must now be in his fifteer

The rightmare persists for Welcook owners Raymond Yu and Terry Que.

"The situation is the same. We've been wracking our brains looking at ways and means to form a competitive team for the PBA. What happens if we fail to form one? Baka tambakan kami every game," Raymond voiced his worst fear again the other day.

With Welcoat the last to pick in the first round of the rookie draft, Raymond is not too optimustic about getting the talent his team needs from the amateur pool.

Nor from the expansion pool, where the nine PBA teams get to protect 10 of their players.

"We just don't know where to get our materials," said Raymond, who informed us that they will be holding try-outs first week of August to take a look at the talents available in the free agent market.

Injured cager Eugene Tejada graced last Wednesday's Game 5 of the PBA best-of-sev en championship series in a wheelchair to cheer for his teammates who were projected to end the series that day.

Tejada continues to be a part of the Purefoods Chunkee Giants. His contract expired this July but was renewed for another 6 months by PPC governor Rene Pardo who is scheduled to retire at the end of the season.

I just remembered something significant which the Big J said when he guested in the recent MVP awards of the PBA.

The former senator said he was very happy that homegrown talents led by MVP James Yap, not Fli-Ams, dominated the awards thus year.

Naascu tourney reels off today

UNIVERSITY OF MANILA WILL BEGIN ITS quest for a sixth straight crown today when the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's (Naascu) basketball gets going today at the Cuneta Astrodome

The Hawks, owner of the longest winning streak in conegiate baskerball history with 86 straight victories, will battle last year's second placer STI in the first game at 2 p.m.

Preceding the match is the opening ceremony which will feature Naascu president Dr. Ernesto vay Adalem of host St. Clare. Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao and boxing association president Manny Lopez were also invited

New Bra faces University of Makati at 4 p.m. following St. Clare's 2.30 p.m. meeting with AMA Computer University

Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay battles Centro Escolar at 11:30 a.m., while Holy Angel tests newcomer San Sebastian-Cavite at 1 p.m. Marc Anthony Reyes

Letran slips past gritty Mapua

BANES WEDNESDAY Hinny Aquina Stadioni 2 p.m.--- Mapue vs JRU (Srs) 4 p.m. San Bada ve Letran (Sre/Jrs)

By Jasmine W. Payo.

COMPLACENCY ALMOST DID THE defending champions in.

Blowing a huge 20-point cushion, the Letran Krughts weathered a fumbling performance in the second half to slip past the Mapua Cardinals, 74-71, and keep the solo lead in the NCAA men's baskerball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aguino Stadium.

And this time, it took more than just coach Louie Alas' two trusted stars to secure his team's suith straight win.

Boyet Bautista and Aaron Aban combined for 36 points for the Knights, who nevertheless needed key contributions from Andro Quiday and Rey Danger, in the closing minutes to preserve their unbeaten state

"We were passive," said Alas "Good thing Quinday and Dangeai clicked off the bench.

Earlier, the Philippine Christian U Dolpluns wrapped up its first-round campaign with a 66-61 mumph over the struggling St. Benulde Biazers.

After a fairly quiet performance in the opening minutes, Gabby Espinas regained his composure and fired 11 of has 15 points in the second half on top of 14 rebounds and four blocks.

Although the Dolphurs boosted their

record to 5-2, coach Juel Duaian insists that they are still playing below potential. "The way we're playing, we're still far from contenders Letran and San Beda."

The Cardinals dropped to 3-3 after a potential game-tying three pointer by Keivin dela Peña missed at the buzzer

The knights posted a commanding 20-point lead, 41-21, in the second perfod behind the strong early showing of Bautista and Aban

The sewer. Second Game (\$rg)

PCU 66-Espiras 15, Garrido 12, Santos 12, Castro 9, David 7, Neverro 6, Hermosa 2, Amapara-

do 2, Salem 1 McCoy 0, Belga 0, Vidal 0. ST. BENILDE 61 - M. Urra 14. Layun 9 Cavid 8. Aktover 7 Robles 8. Mantapaz 5

Devants 4, Manding 4, Johnelon 3, D. Urra O. Cadiz C, Libunac 0

Quarters. .2-13, 25-30, **43-42 66-61** Third Game (Sm)

LETRAN 74-Baufista 19, Aban 17, Dan 10, Guinday 8, Mondragon 8, Dangcal 7 Faundo 2 Balong 2 Jazul 1 Realista 6, Guever

MAPUA 71-Thongson 19, Del Rosario 13, Dela Pena 10, Mazo 9, Gonzales 7 Co 7, N. Pascual 3, J. Pascual 3, Semalinos 6.

GABBY Espinas of PCU and Geraid Christopher Layug of St. Benilde

Bulldogs WITH THEIR BEST PLAYER CONE, FAR

take on

Eastern U coach Bert Flores made it clear to the Tamaraws to expect a tough season in the UAAP men's basketba tournament

Tamaraws

And the cha lenges did come early for the defending chammons

Winless in two games the Tamuraws will try to secure their first victory of the post-Ar wind Santos era when they tackle the similar ly struggling National U Bulldogs in the ione semor match at 4 p.m. today at the Nino) Agumo Stadium

STANDINGS

UST

Adamson

GAMES YOUAY

(Niney Aquine Startings)

9 a.m. - dP vs NL (drs)

11 a.m.—FEL VI UST

(Jrs)

2 p.m.-Ateneo vs UE

(Urs)

4 p.m. - FEL Vs NL

"No need to press the panic button " said Flores. The boys have been fight. ng, we haven't lost by big marg ns."

Still the cellar is an antam iar place for the Tamaraws The last time FEL opened with a 0-2 record was in 1996, a year when their curren ip ayers were still n etementary.

Flores bolieves the Ta naraws have a. ready adjusted from the departure of San tos, the league's Most Valuable Player in the

ast two seasons "So far I'm satisfied because the rookies have

been performing wen," saki Flores, "I won't question the players desire to win. I know they'll step up. We'll peak soon "



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.



FLOYD Landis caps an amazing ride with a pumped fist.

Landis comes alive with stunning ride

MORZINE, FRANCE—WRITTEN his Phonaic squad. off as hopeless just a day earlier, Ployd Landis needed a once-in-alifetime ride to revive his sagging chances of victory in the Tour de France on Thursday.

Did he ever deliver.

With a sensational display of baso and guts in the style of seven-time Tour champion Lance Armstrong, the American put himself back in the title hunt with a solo win in the last Alpine stage.

The astonishing rebound silenced nay sayers-including Landis hunseif-who believed his chances to win on Sunday were doomed after he lost more than 8 munutes to race leader Oscar Pereiro of Spain in a punishing stage just 24 hours earlier

"I was very, very disappointed yesterday for a little while," Lankis said. "Today I thought I could show that at least I would keep fighting.

Sensing his rivals would be relatively depleted, Landis pedaled like a man possessed-going all out for

In the first climb, Landis brashly spurted ahead of Pereiro, wearing the yellow jersey, and other key Tour contenders—catching then overtaking a breakaway group that had gotten ahead earlier.

One by one, he left them all be-

Landis, who rides with an injured hip, pumped his right fist in celebration as he crossed the finish the 200.5-kilometer (124.3mile) ride-the last stage in the Alps-in 5 hours, 23 minutes, 36

He began the day in 11th place, trailing Pereiro by 8 minutes, 8 seconds. By the time he finished, he had jumped to third, and had closed the time gap to an incredible

The 30-year-old slashed the deficit by finishing 7:08 ahead of Pereiro. He also trimmed an extra 30 seconds by earning bostus points for winning the stage and placing

Woods to 3-shot lead HOYLAKE, ENGLAND-IT MIGHT BE PRE mature to declare a major tournament over by lunchtime on the second day but

The 456-yard dog leg is one of the jewels in the crown of the Hoylake links, the hole most of the pros had identified as the toughest on the course hosting the British Open for the

who will bet against Tiger Woods after

first time since 1967 Even Tiger himself had struggled with it on Thursday, when he needed to get up and down from the greenside rough to save par,

Friday was a different story. After splitting the fairway with a two-iron off the ree, Woods pulled out his four iron and rifled his second shot straight at the flag that was shimmering in the simshine 205 yards ahead of him.

The raised green meant that the world number one cruzki not actually see the ball take a couple of bounces and roll into the hole for an eagle two that seems destined to be recognized as the defining moment of the 135th Open Championship

But the huge roar that erupted from the crowd circling the green soon had him exchanging high-fives with his Kiwi caddy Steve

Even Nick Raido, with whom Woods has a famously prickly relationship, discreetly approached his playing partner to offer congrat ulations and a friendly touch of knuckles

If they were watching in the clubhouse as they waited to start their second rounds, Phili Mickelson and Emie Els would have been forgiven for thinking they might as well head straight for the airport

The wonder shot left Tiger at 11 under par, three shots clear of the chasing pack, which was also the position in which be finished his round after picking up one more birdie, at the long 16th, to complete a seven-under par 65.

That equaled the course record set earlier in the day by Chris DiMarco, and only a loose tee-shot on the 18th, where Woods would normally expect to reach the green in two and secure at least a birdie, cost him the opportunity to set a new mark

Understandably however, he was not frustrated about that minor becup, and he acknowledged the significance of his eagle.

"That's a hole where you want to just make four and get out of there," he said. "So it is a

"I couldn't actually see the ball go in. I was just aiming at the left edge of the TV tower and trying to keep it as flat as possible and I



WOODS: Back on top,

"I wasn't trying to get the bail in the hole, I was just trying to get it on the green, believe

A round that was to deliver so many fireworks, actually started off looking as if it might be something of a damp squib.

Fifa penalizes Zidane, Materazzi

ZIDANE

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND-ZINEDINE Zidane was banned by Fifa for three games Thursday for head-butting Italy defender Marco Materazzi during the World Cup final. Now retired, the former France captain will serve his punishment by doing community work.

Materazzi was suspended for two matches for provoking Zidane with in-

World soccer's governing body also fined Zidane 7,500 Swiss francs (US\$6,000; euro4,750) and Materazzi

5,000 francs (US\$4,000; euro3,200) after a disciplinary committee heard the French player's account of what led to the tricident

Zidane, who retired after his team's

ioss in the July 9 final in Berlin, was sept off for ramming Materazzi in the chest with his head.

He agreed to complete three days of community service with children as part

of Fifa's humanitarian projects. "Community service is not something foreseen in the regulations," Fifa

"repeatedly provoking Zidane." Both players stressed that Mater-

Zidane's mother

azzi's comments had been defamatory but not of a recist nature," Fife said in a

spokesman Andreas Herren said. "It is a

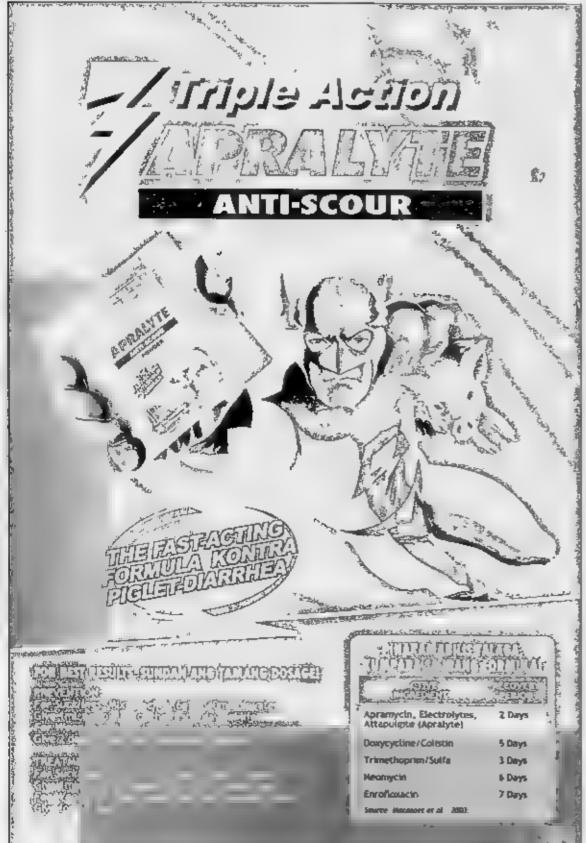
gesture, given the special circumstances

Zidane has said he attacked Mater-

Fifa said Marerazzi was punished for

azzi because he insulted his mother and

sister, while Materazza demed institting



Hard hats on, lunch pails in tow, NBA stars start 'paradise' camp

LAS VEGAS-HAWKS CAPTAIN JOE JOHN son didn't have to continue his annual ritual of crists-crossing the country in search of the most challenging summer pick-up basker-

23 other players, to the US national team's training camp in preparation for next month's World Championships in Japan.

This is the best run for an NBA player anywhere on the planet," an animated Johnson said after practice wrapped up Thursday morning at Cox Pavilion on the campus of UNIX "Look at these guys we've got in the gym. Where else can you go and have LeBron (James) and Dwyane [Wade] on one side and Carmelo [Anthony] and Chauncey [Billups] on the other? It doesn't ger any better than this. And you know how much I love to play ball, so this is paradise

There may not be a more important job in American baskerball right now than this one. With USA Baskerbal's complete makeover after an 11-6 record in international competition the past four years, USA Baskethali general manager Jerry Colangelo and head coach Mike Krzyzewski know that the resurrection of the program has to

This group is already different," said Wade. "The guys already have an understanding of what we're trying to do, and we're going to have a little more time to

And if the first two days are any indication, they're going to enjoy themselves a lot more this time. When James got up from an interview and holiered that he needed "five bags of ice" for his aching bones, Wade



CLEVELAND star LeBron James (left) guards Miami hotshot Dwyane Wade, saires

grinned and shouted back, "that's because you're 30. Check the birth certificate."

Dwight Howard said he was worried intraily that this boot camp would be a smilefree zone, what with all the pressure and advance warrings about players showing up with their hard hats on and lunch pails

They told me I better come and be in the best shape of my life and be ready to go," the Orlando Magic star said. "But honestly, we've had a ready good time so far We've worked hard. But it's been good work, fun work, if that makes any sense. We've been doing the kind of stuff we'd all be doing on our own if we weren't here. Because the truth is our lives revolve around this game NYTimes News Service anyway."



CELEBRITY JAM

NBA stars Andre Iguodala of the Philadelphia 76ers (backrow, left) and Channing Frye of the New York Knicks (back row, right) pay a courtesy call to Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, who is flanked by the San Antonio silver dancers. The NBA Madness ends today with Celebrity Jam-a sports, music-and-entertainment extravaganza at the Araneta Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Belmonte will make the

Text us your feedback: inquirer set name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smort)

Two Cinemalaya 200 entries fulfill their promi

By Nestor U. Torre

story and screenplay phases of the 2006 Cinemalaya film competition, two of the most promising screenplays were "Batad, Sa Paang Palay" and "Tulad ng Dati." So, when the ongoing festival opened some days ago, we made it a point to watch those movies first, to see if the scripts' promise has been fulfilled by the finished films.

For Benji Garcia's "Batad," the answer is yes. The film tells the simple but significant story of a young man (Alcris Galura) living in the Mountain Province, whose big dream is to own a past of nifty sports shoes.

Rice terraces

There's much more at stake than just the shoes, of course, 'The young man's father (Noni Buencamino) repairs the disintegrating rice terraces in their community, but he can't do much to stop his son from dreaming of escaping his "dead-end" life in Batad, and head for the big city, as many other youths have

So, the movie's story becomes a trans-generational and counter-cultural conflict that's moving in its simplicity, and yet challenging in the depth of its meaning.

Galura and Gina Alajar turn in felt and luminous performances, as do the artresses who play the boy's sister and the teenage village girl who steals his heart. On the other hand, Buencamino is a very fine actor, but looks too citified to be completely believable as the boy's father.

Also on the minus side, the movie's images don't showcase and highlight the beauty and grandeur of the location's topography as well as they should

There are too many small scenes that focus on a few characters without placing them in a spatial context that could more pertinently vivify the cultural conflict that is at the root of the movie's thematic objective.

Limitation

Despite this limitation, however, "Batad" holds together well, and merits viewers' appreciation.

The same goes for Mike Sandejas' "Tulading Dati," which is a very different kind of movie, but also tackles a significant theme, how issues of the past have to be resolved before the present and the future can come into their own

Even more impressively, this worthy theme is vivified in musical terms, with the members of The Dawn playing themselves. At first, the fear was that the gifted musicians would turn out to be stolid actors, but the repidation has turned out to be unfounded, and they acquit themselves as thespians in a straightforward and felt way.

The film also scores points with its handling of its piot's amnesia element. In other local films, it's used mainly for melodramatic effect, but in "Thiad ng Dati," it's employed to force the film's central character to confront and exorcize his demons in an effectively and strikingly psychological way.

Musical numbers

Less effective is the movie's final fourth section, which has too many musical numbers and resolves its protagonist's domestic issues too nearly. The long confrontation with band member Teddy Diaz's ghost is



ALAJAR. Felt and luminous performance.

also excessively extended

THEN WE JUDGED THE substantially diminish the film's achievement, and the production should be seen by music and film buffs alike.

So far, so good. See these and other Cinemalaya films today and tomorrow, to give our new filmmakers a boost, and to treat yourself to a bracingly optimistic view of the present and future of Filipino filmmaking—the Cinemalaya way.





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July 36 (Weekend Screening) 10:30 a.m., 1 30 p.m., 4.30 p.m., 7 30 p.m.

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JULY 19 to 25

MOVALICHEE:

Explosion of youthful talent, fresh ideas at indie filmfest

EFFREY Jeturian's "Kubrador" (The Bet Collecrecent winner of the Critics' Prize at 28th Moscow International Film Festival opening film at the current Cin emalaya independent film fest, takes an unvarnished look at three days in the life of Amy (Gina Pareño), a mid

dle-aged jueteng bet col lector as she goes about her daily task of taking care of an irresponsi ble husband, collecting bets for the popular illegal-numbers game, evading and charming the cops who are always on her tail

Omnipresent

In what is arguably complished film to date, the director unlizes the omnipresent camera to hover over and around its protagonist to capture the poverty-stricken. dog-eat-dog commi nity she inhabits This is the world -> Army sees it—and it's not a pretty sight to

The beauty of the fitm rests not M much in how it man ages to vividly capture the squalor and desperation of a seemingly hopeless world, but in the strength of character shown in the face of every person in this dirt-poor neighbo hood

Residents

In fact, you won. hear much bawling from residents of the neighborhood's nar row, decrepit shanties They do complain, but they know there's not much use crying over something they can bardly do anything about.

Pareño is memorable as the head strong, hardworking wife who seeming v takes the crue, blows of life in stride, but is really living in the bittersweet memory of a dearly departed son---a mustary man who perished in the line of duty. In moving images, Jetunan juxtaposes Amy's in ner turmoil with the physical hopelessness of the world she inhabits.

I 0 entries

On the other hand there's no doubt the 10 entries of the indie festival's short film category like wise capture varied silices of Pinoy sensi buttes—from the substantial and un nerving to the hollow EXPLOSION/ A2-4

GITETAY WMALL GarmersPlaza Today • 10 AM - 8 PM Celebrity Jam Areneta Coirseum Parking Today • 5 PM • Aranets Collecum With special appearances by Andre Igoodala of the Philadalphia 76ess & Cheaning Frye of the New York Knicks plus the San Antonio Space Silver Dengeral IN THE COUNTRY WHITE LADY Superman returns NACHO LIBRE 2207 2707 5007 720 1940 12.30/136/6.30/9.30 145/11/5/525/7.35:9/6 LADY IN THE WATER 1,007/1007/1007/1007 220 / 210 / 245 / 435 5/10/7/00/7 35/9-25/10:00 PIRATES OF THE CARRIESAN 2 F10732075307740799 12,00 3,00 6,00 9:00 MALL PIRATES OF THE CARRESTAN 2 RENAWAY VACATION LADY IN THE WATER USS/ 340/A05, 030 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00, 9:00 205 /215/420/435/445 WHITE LADY NACHO LIBRE nies er 1001, (200) 210, 420, 630, 440

Jennylyn finds healing in music

By Jocelyn Valle

"LETTING GO" IS NOT JUST THE title of Jennylyn Mercada's sophomore a.bum; it's also the actress' approach to self-healing. The physical abuse she was exposed to at age three had left her emotionally and psychologically scarred.

The experience has also made her very wary of people, which, in turn, has earned her the reputation of being aloof and bratty when she found fame in "StarStruck."

TV series

"I've learned to let go. Ngayon, wala nang fear," Jennylyn declares, her eyes twinking as she takes a break from taping scenes for the TV series, "I Luv New York."

"Supporting a group of kids with the same experience has also helped me find healing. Norintindihan ko na at alam ke na kung ane ang dapat

At 19, Jennylyn is having the time of her life as she pursues her life-long passion (singing) and newfound love (acting) But, she also sees herself trying her luck in another field-in a place like New York.

Needless to say, she loved the taste of the Big Apple when she, along with castmates Jolina Magdangal, Marvin Agustin and Mark Herras, stayed there for a month to tape scenes for the show. "We had so much him. Parang hindi kami nagtatrabaho. I miss the weather there. Nung nandun kami, nag-snow-sobrang lamigl," she relates.

Jennylyn recalls running into Filipinos in New York, and getting tick-

rin ang takbo ng show business," she led pink everytime they recognized adds. "Komportable na akong kumikus, her. "May Pinoy TV (GMA 7's international cable affiliate) no kosi, kaya kilala nila ako," she explains. "Pero, mas gusto ko pa rin ditu sa Pilipinas kasi dito ako pinanganak at humaki."

Bratty character

In fact, Jennylyn has little in com-mon with Natalie, the bratty charac-ter she plays on the TV series, who flees to New York after her cashstrapped parents tell her that she's been betrothed to the son of their wealthy associates. Natalie then finds romance when she meets the character played by Mark Herras, her former real-life boyfriend

Romance may have withered on the vine for Jennylyn and Mark, but the actress insists that their relationship is better than ever. She reasons





BICE. Triumph of corporate rock over

Bo Bice goes through the motions in 'The Real Thing'

By Noelani Torre

"AMERICAN IDOL" FINALIST BO BICE IS either genuinely unaware of the possibilities for mockery that the title of his solo debut offers jaded critics, or he just has moxie. Yet, he must know that he's leaving himself wide open to saide critical attack by naming his album "The Rea Thing."

After all, it's hard to reconcile his synthetically manufactured image on "American Idol" with "the real thing"—whatever that may be

Then again, Bice-the runner-up in the fourth season of "Al"-has always been a bit of a maverick. He's projected himself as your honest-to-goodness, regular Joe who just happens to sing well But, now that "Al Season 4" has long been over, and a career has to be made, whether or not that image is supported by the music in his album is the \$10,000-question.

Sales-wise, the answer to that question is positive. "The Real Thing" debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 and sold 227,000 copies on its first week. But, sales alone are no clear indication of the strength of the materia.

People could be buying into the "Af" craze and the charm of Bice's persona—and, if you listen to the album, you'l change that "could be" into "definitely."

Brand, homogeneous, and largely devoid of the Alabama-native's trademark rough edges, this album is a triumph of corporate rock over

You can hear him in it, yes, but he's only going through the motions. And, Bo's personality hardly makes an appearance, overshadowed as it is by the slick production and music courtesy of executive producer, Clive Davis, and established rockers Chad Kroeger (Nickelback), Jon Bon Jovi and Richte Sambora.

Radio-friendly

Sure, the songs are radio-friendly, but they also sound like they've been culled from any alt-rock album in the marker. If this is what studio work does for someone like Bice-who was already interesting before the imagists and publicists got their hands on him-then God help those who are as insipid as watereddown milk.

It's as if the producers and the "Al" team hadn't been watching their own show. If they had, they would have noticed that what made Bice a hit was not only his flexible, husky voice and down-home style, but also his love for rock 'n' roll and the pure excitement he generated on the show.

The main reaction that "The Real Thing" generates is boredom, and a what-a-shame feeling that such an experienced group of professionals could have mishandled a talent like Bice's. Maybe he should turn indie,



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Mother Angelica is no stereotypical nun

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez

YOU'RE HETHER feeling troubled or on top of the world, you should tune in to the replays of "Mother Angelica Live." aired Wednesdays, 7 p.m. over EWTN, the world's largest relagious media network.

Mother Angelica may be currently on sick leave, but past episodes of her wellloved show continue to be aired

The show's host founded the network herself in 1981 when she was 58 years old But, what's so specia, about Mother Angelica?

Although concervative, she's not your stereotypical nun who pontificates on what's wrong with the world. She discusses the existence of purgatory, the value of the Eucharist, or the power of the priesthood without being preachy.

Concrete examples

Listen to what Mother Angenca has to say about practicing prudence and fortitude by giving concrete examples and practical applications. She says, for instance, that a mother is not prudent when she lends her entire paycheck to a neighbor even if she needs it for .mmediate household needs. (She advises televiewers that the mother should have given the neighbor only what she could afford.)

Fortitude

For her, the most important theological virtue is justice, but she likewise stresses the value of fortitude. She reflects on today's twisted values, or how pornography has invaded primet me TV, but she also injects humor into these discussions. She is the epitome of a "coo." nun speaking in a language everyone can relate to

On the topic of interior mortification and suffering Mother Angelica makes the search for houness seem easy as she relates her own impatience when she was younger, and how she dealt with her crippling hand-caps

When she is requested to say a prayer for a departed loved one, a child who's hooked on drugs, or a husband who has abandoned his family, she prays from the heart. She lends a sympathetic ear and tells her viewers to pray for the alleviation of their anxieties.

You may wonder how Mother Angelice, now 83 found her vocation EWTN anchor Raymond Arroyo, auther of the biography, "The Remarkable Story of a Nun, Her Nerve and a Network of Miracles," reveals that Mother Angelica was abandoned by her father at age five

She grew up plagued by illness and setf-doubt. "Rita Rizzo (her given name) expenenced a miraculous hear ng in 1943, and this drew her to the closstered life at the age of 21," says the

The EWIN website talks about her "outrageous bargain with God that presaged the building of a monastery n Birmingham, Alabama and the difficulfounding of EWTN."

Final interview

It also tells of how a stroke has debilitated her "a week after completing the final interview for her biography."

But, Mother Angelica's most quotable quote could well be: "The history of EWTN isn't what we've done; it's how we ve done it "

Fil-Am looker is the latest pop star in town

MOTHER

ANGELICA.

"Outrageous"

bargain with



AMBER. Her songs reflect pride in her Pinoy heritage.

By Remy Umerex

SHE IS SEXY IN FACT, SHE CAN easily pass for the latest addition to the Viva Hotbabes. But Amber, whose real name is Amber Aleio Rowley, isn't going that route

The demo tape she sent to different recording outfits contained songs she herself composed and sang. Viva's Vincent del Rosario ked what he heard and immediatesy signed up the Pil-Am taient

Del Rosario describes his latest discovery as the female solo act of 2006. Dubbed local music's Pop Jewei. Amber is the voice behind the current radio hit. "Mania."

First single

"Manila," not be confused with the '70s Hotdog classic, is the first sing e culled from Amber's 12-track debut album, "Feel Good Music," which was launched recently at the Hard Rock Café

Amber collaborated with produc-

er-arranger Marcus Davis The mom is a Filipina nurse) moved back songs in the collection are inspired by Amber's memories as a young girl in the Philippines. Choice cuts inc ade "In This Place," "So Beauti-fa.," "See You Soon," "Al. for Nothing" and "Ikaw ang Buhay Ko." She dedicates the song, "Daddy," to her American father

Recording artists

Like other international recording artists Filipino With blood-Apl de Ap of the Black Eyed Peas, Nicole Scherzinger of the Pussycat Dolls and Mutya Buena, formerly of the Sugarbabes-Amber is proud of her Flapino heritage, and all the cuts in the album reflect this.

She explains "I may have grown up in the States, but a part of me never left the Philippines." The youngest of eight children, she shares that her parents are still very much in love with each other.

she was five years old, her family (her answer.

to Malolos, Bulacan (her mother's hometown) before they relocated to Angeles, Pampanga because of her father's tob.

As a child, she appeared in TV commerciais and had guested on local television shows tike "Pen Pen de Sarapen." Her sister, Misty Blue, was even a part of "That's Entertainment."

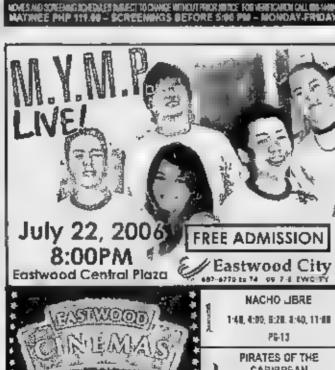
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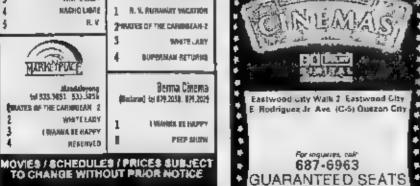
After finishing high school, the Rowleys decided to resettle in Los Angeles, California, where Amber could pursue a singing career. She worked with touring groups, and did backup vocals for artists like Hilary Duff Later, she waxed two singles for the soundtrack of a movie

When her contract with Universal expired, she decided to try her lack in the Philippines and see what her mother's country has in store for her.

With "Manua" enjoying frequent Rowley was born in Arizona. When radio airplay, Amber has found the







CARIBBEAN 1**7:30**, 3:50, 7:1**0**, 10:30 6P

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RUNAWAY VACATION 1:40, 4:80, 5:20, 0:48, 11:00

Immune boosters

THE RAINY SEASON HAS ARRIVED-AND so has the flu. We don't just need umbrellas to ward it off, we also need immune boosters

To help us get through this time of year, Mother Nature provides us with abundant flu busters such as kalamansi, lemon and seed-Other inexpensive juicy concoctions:

A. Apple cider vinegar treats arthritis, sore throat, bladder infection, prostatic disorders, high blood pressure, menstrual disorders and poor digestion. It promotes weight loss and energizes the body by improving circulation.

Beneficial

B. Cinnamon has netura, antifungal and antivira, properties. It alleviates cold and flusymptoms like fever, cough and chills, reheves menstrual cramps, and stimulates digestion. It is beneficial to people with diabetes due to for its hypoglycemic ability.

C Ginger hears, cleanses and rejuvenates. It relieves asthma, cough and congestion, hypercholesterolemia, water retention, nausea, irregular and painful mensionation, constipation and poor circulation. It boosts the immune system and breaks down unic acid. Simply grate fresh ginger, squeeze the juice and add to your drinks.

D. Cayenne aids digestion, improves circulation, helps lower blood pressure and choicstero,, and wards off coids, sinus infections,

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clates the metabolism, and eases arthritis. It's rich in vitamins A, C and other annoxidants

Daily basis

Powerful preparations you can take on a daily basis to supplement good health in-

Citrus-ginger-cayenne-honey drink which combines the best immune boosters Prepare juice from a citrus fruit, then add the pulp squeezed from grated fresh ginger to it Add water, honey and cayenne

Papaya-citrus honey-cayenne drink. Add water and mix in a blender

3 Banana mango-cinnamon-honey drink. Add water and blend

4. Citrus-apple cider-vinegar-honey drink Add water to citrus pace, a tablespoon of ap-

pie cider vinegar, and honey. You, too, can experiment with faice combi-

nations for your very own boosters. Let's drink to your health!

Explosion of youthful

and mundane.

Indeed Cinemalaya has become the local film festival to beat. However, we find quite a number of the short-film finalists too preachy, stagey-and longer than they should be. Our top picks include Jeck Cogeme's

"Putot," about a young sheafish vendor (Carl Patrick Taylan) who takes care of his mentallyill father (Nor Domingo), and Raz dela Torre's farcical "Labada," about a part-time heiper (Skyzx Labastilla) who suspects that her tricycle driver-husband is having an affair.

Touching

Although quite similar to Rica Arevalo's award-winning full-length feature, "ICU Bed #7," Anna Isabelle Matutina's touching semiautobiographical "Puwang" is a polished family drama that examines the dynamics among a terminally-ill father (E.mo Redrico) and his three children (Roence Santos, BonReyes, Lorena Landicho)

Pepe Diokno and Jeanne Lim's cautionary and darkly comic "No Passport Needed"-about a fugitive (Bodjie Pascua) who meets his match in a Chinese businessman who's willing to sneak hum into Malaysia even without a passport-may be one of the category's shortest entries (it clocks at only a little over eight minutes), but its concept is also among the best realized—sons the cluttered pretensions of some entries.

Stage version

We enjoyed the stage version of Mariana Tanangco's "Gee-Gee at Waterina," about an aging homosexual (Lou Veloso) and his gay politician friend (Paulo Cabanero) who's negotiating for the film rights to his colorful life story.

Despite the spirited performance of Veloso, however, the movie version, while still engaging and, at times, hysterically funny, fails to effectively translate the original stage play to the big screen.

22 PC-13

Children and the state of the s

SATURDAYSpecial Justin wants new sound for non music

PARIS-JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE WANTS TO with Comeron Diaz is a regular feature in push the boundaries of pop music with a new album, "FutureSex/LoveSounds," that marks a departure from his earlier chart-topping style, he said recently.

Timberlake's first solo album, "Justified," sold more than seven million copies and the 25-year-old performer, whose relationship

tabloid newspapers, has also moved into acting. His new album is due to be released on Sept. 11

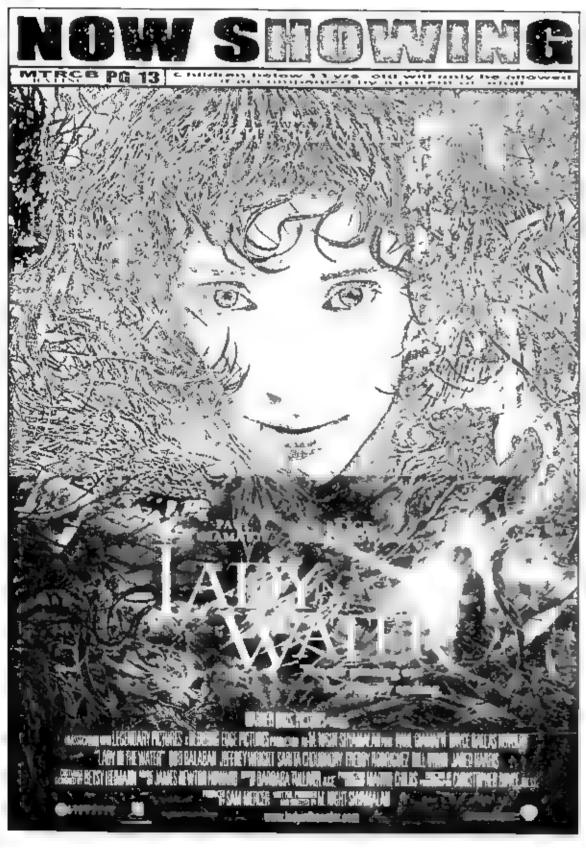
"I realize that I have a platform to push JUSTINIAZ4 style.



Departs from usual







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NEC turns to drama-heavy slate



PERRY. Returns to the small screen in the drama series, "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip."

NEW YORK--NBC, STRUGGLING FOR West Wing," ended its Emmy-winning two years to replace retired blockbuster comedies, switched gears recently to unveil a new primetime lineup that's heavy on drama, with a show biz backstage senes, "Studio 60," from the man who took viewers inside the White House on "The West Wing."

Training the three other major networks as it nears the end of its second post "Priends" TV season, NBC is desperate for new hits to reclaim its longtime dominance in the ratings race for viewers most covered by advertisers—those aged 18 to 49

Turnaround

Now, the broadcaster controlled by General Electric Co. has decided to bank its turnaround on a slate of six new dramas. These include "Studio 60" on the Sunset Strip" from Aaron Sorkin, whose previous TV creation, the landmark political drama, "The

seven-year NBC run recently.

NBC executives said new dramas have proven far easier than comedies for all the networks to get off the ground in recent years. Only one sitcom, "Two and a Half Men" on CBS, ranks among the top 20 shows most watched in primetime this season.

Notable

Sorkin's latest drama is also notable for an al. star east that includes "West Wing" veteran, Bradley Whitford, and another familiar face from one of NBC's past hits, Matthew Perry, best known as Chandler Bing of "Friends."

They play producers struggling to boost the ratings of a fictional latenight TV sketch show. Amanda Peet costars as a new network executive they

The show-within-a-show formula is also the premise of a new comedy, "30

Rock," starring "Saturday Night Live's" Tina Fey as the head writer of a late-night TV variety show. Alec Baldwin co-stars

While Perry is returning to NBC's primerime schedule in a drama, the network has pulled the plug on "Joey," the "Friends" spinoff of his former sitcom cohort, Matt LeBlanc, due to anemic ratings. NBC also opted not to renew its high profile Pentagon drama, "E Ring," with Dennis Hopper.

Among the new series taking their place are a high school football drama, "Friday Night Lights": crime drama. "Kidnapped," centered on the abduction of a teenage boy, and "Heroes," about a group of ordinary people who find they have super powers.

Centerpiece

But, "Studio 60" was the clear centerpiece of the 2006-2007 schedule. The show marks Sorkin's first big project since he left "West Wing" in 2003 amid

reports of problems with production delays and cost overruns.

Although widely acclaimed as one of TV's most gifted writer-producers. Sorkin has struggled in the past with drug abuse. The Wail Street Journal reported that NBC executives addressed those issues in a meeting last fall and were reassured he was up for running a

Flagship night

NBC's flagslup night remains Thursday, when returning comedy successes, "My Name is Earl" and "The Office." will be followed by "Studto 60."

Long-running medica, drama, "ER," will return immediately following "Studio 60," then take a hia us in January for the debut of the new Irish mob drama, "The Black Donnellys." NBC will also debut a new comedy, "Twenty Good Years," starring John Lithgow.

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Panoorin: World-class na galing ng Pinoy sa pag-awit.



It is without a doubt that Filipinos are greet singers. But for the Parint plat hip, only a performance that is global, orig at the, will make it through

Sa singing competition we ite hakanapin ang idol ng bayan. Ing pininkanaga ing na Filipino performer ne malpagmemalaki ng bensa se buong mundo.

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Kapariner sa paghahanap ng 1⁴ Philippine idol









BARRINO, Unnerved by rape scene.

Fantasia Barrino plays herself in movie for TV

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA—'AMERIcan Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino had to be persuaded to play herself in a television movie about her hardscrauble afe

"Life is Not a Pairy Tale," which airs on Aug. 19 on Lifetime, is inspired by the R&B singer's autobiography about dropping out of high school and becoming an unwed mother at 17

"I didn't think it was going to be tough going back playing myself, but it was, because I had to relive those moments," Barrino told the Television Critics Association's summer meeting recently.

Thankful

"At the end, I began to cry and I said, T went through all those things, but 1 know why I share my life 'I'm thankful that I was able to do it," she excia ms

ing for Barrino, who annually told director Debbie Allen she wouldn't do it "She talked to me, and she helped me

A rape scene was particularly unnerv-

deal with it," Barnno said "The good part about it is, her son played the part Barrino was the third season winner

of "Idol" and released her debut ashum, "Free Yourself," in 2004.

Justin

the sound of pop music. That's the only responsibility that I put on myself in record ing the abum," Timber.ake told a news conference "If I'm not going to push it, who will?"

The first single from the a.b.m, "Sexy-Back," features a pounding bass beat and electronic sounds, and does not include the falserto singing that has become Timberlake's trademark

"The best way I can describe the song is what a tune would sound like if David Bowie and David Byrne decided to do a cover of James Brown's 'Sex Machine," Timberlake explained.

Perhaps aware of media speculation that his relationship with Diaz was going through a "rough patch," journalists were instructed to ask Timberlake only about his music and

He said the new sound was the product of a broad variety of influences-from soul leg ends A. Green and Marvin Gaye to bands such as The Beatles and The Eagles.

Sophomore album

"I think it's important for a sophomore as burn to broaden a singer's sound and to try something new, because if you do the same thing, then your third and fourth albums have to be the same-you don't grow!," the former member of 'NSync said

Timberlake wrote songs on the album with rapper-producer Timbaland The album features guest vocals by Timbaland, Atlanta rapper TI and Will.I.Am of the Black-Eyed Peas.

While he wants to change pop music, he said he's not aiming to take over Michael Jackson's "king of pop" mantie

"You guys want a new king of pop. bu. I don't want it-I want to keep doing wha ! dot," he said. Reuters

STREEP

Knack for

"disappearing"

into her roles.

SATURDAYSpecial

Meryl Streep, chameleon of the cinema

By Nestor U. Torre

EOPLE SOMEtimes ask us the slum-book question, "Who's your favorite actress?," and when we answer, "Meryl Streep," their invariable reaction is, "But she's old!" Well, if your concept of acting talent is represented by the nubile likes of Lindsay Lohan and Amanda Bynes, yes, Meryl Streep is ancient.

The way we see it, however, age is no impediment when it comes to acting ability-in fact, experience vastly enhances it. Streep's itlustrious career is the best proof of this

She knew early on that what she wanted to do most was to act, so she majored in drama at Vassar Coulege and earned a Master of Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama.

Thus properly trained, she appeared in her first films, "Julia" and "The Deer Hunter," in 1977 and 1978, and was nominated for a best supporting actress Oscar for her performance in the latter film.

Was it just beginner's tuck? No way. She went on to win Academy Awards for her roles in "Kramer vs. Kramer" (best supporting actress, 1979) and "Sophie's Choice" (best actress, 1982)

Streep sustained her thespic momentum in the '80s, starring in acclaimed productions like "The French Lieutenant's Woman," "Silkwood," "Out of Africa" and "Postcards from the Edge."

As the actress continued to appear onscreen, film buffs realized that she was significantly different from many other female movie stars, because they generally played themselves from film to film, while she made it a point to lose her own persons in the range of characters she was creating.

This knack for "disappearing" into her roles, plus her depth and range as a thespian, impressed crinics and viewers alike, and reaped more awards for the maturing actress-multiple honors for "Sophie's Choice," "Silliwood," "Out of Africa" and "A Cry in the Dark." In fact, she is the most Oscar-nominated performer in history, with 13 nominations—and counting:

Contemporaries

This, despite the fact that Streep is already in her mid-50s, and most of her contemporaries have stopped acting, or have been relegated to minor or cameo roles

Why has Streep proven to be the exception to this desultory rule? Her versatility is one of her main strengths, which makes it easy for directors to east her in different roles in dramas, comedies, animated features, etc.

Her reputation as a cinematic chameleon also keeps her performances fresh and even surprising-another antidote for predictability and being regarded as passé.

These thoughts come to mind, because Streep has just come up with one of her most surprising characterizations to date in her new film, "The Devil Wears Prada," In the stylish comedy, she plays a ruthless and cyrucal fashion-magazine editor who makes life miserable for many of the "slaves" in her employ.

Title character

Advance word on the movie indicates that it's a new triumph for Streep. A reviewer gushes over her complex characterization of the title charac-

"She carries nuance in her every pore, and endows even her aghthearted comic roles with a rich implication of inner life. With her silver hair and pale skin, her whispery diction as perfect as her posture, Streep's Miranda inspires both terror and a measure of awe. No longer simply the incarnation of evil, she is now a vision of aristocratic, purposeful and surprisingly human grace."

Wow. That's a review to die for It looks like Meryl Streep is here to stay for many more creative and beguilting years to come!

ANACHAR COMMENTAL

Maidens of mood, murder and mystery

By Rito P. Asilo

Dallas Howard

effective.

"Lady in the Water" D: M. Night Shyamalan S: Paul Giamatti, Bryce

TOU CAN HIDE from a painful past, but you can't evade fate for evet. M. Night Shyama.an's bedume fable isn't as innocent as it seems-nor as

Cleveland Heep (the magnificent Paul Giamatti) is happy to vanish among the colorful tenants of The Cove, the suburban apartment complex he manages. He is a man haunted by a painful past (he silently gneves over his murdered wife and kids) and a future with no purpose-until he finds Story (Bryce Dalias Howard), who's a narf, a nymph-like creature from a mysterious world beneath the apartment block's swimming poo

Together with a "preor damed" guardian, a symbolist, a guild of seven sisters, and a heater, Cleveland and Story must fight the demonic scrunt-the movie's requis te sinister creature that prevents the latter from returning to her

But, finding these "preor-



GIAMATTI. Finding purpose is a lonely life.

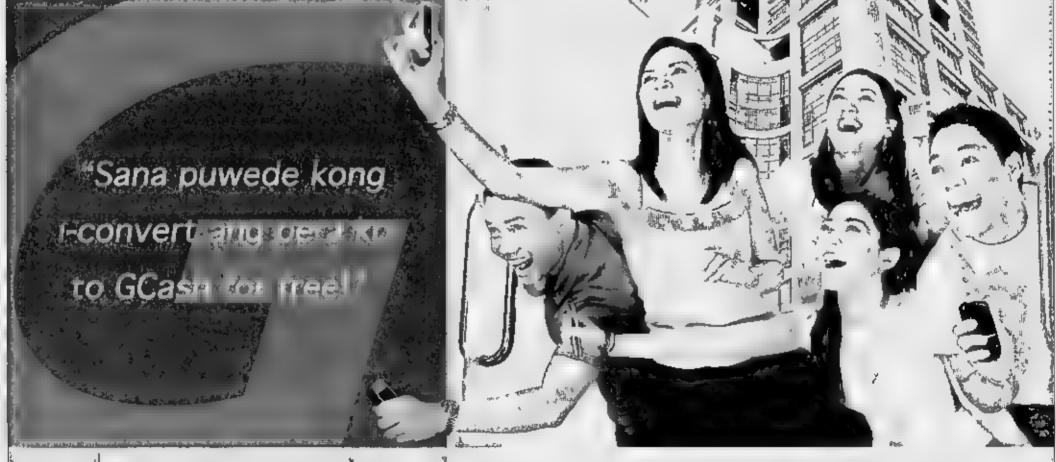
dained" people from among The Cove's quarky tenants sn't as easy as, say, seeing dead people.

Employing a self-concocted fairy tale to tell his twistfree narrative, Hollywood's Master of Mood and Mystery takes a crack at humor and parody, and dispenses lessons about man's confounding search for purpose and meaning

But, while stylishly refreshing and technically superior, Shyama.an's distended metaphorical foray into existentialism is, at best, amusing and uncharacteristically funny.

Unfortunately, it's also slow-moving and implausible. -As implausible as Vick Ran, the sensitive, "visionary" novelist with the writer's block Shyamalan

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Nowher@ to go but up for Jed Madela

By Noelani Torre

IT'S A SATURDAY NIGHT AND Greenbelt's Onstage, where 3mger Jed Madela is holding his concert, is slowly filling up with people. They come in quiet twos and threes-there are no shneking hordes here---but, + doesn't dake them long to occupy almost revery seat in the 800-seater the**later**

Recognition

i It's a pretty impressive showing for a relative newcomer. Why, three years ago, you would have been hard put to get a nod of recognition from your regular man-on-the-street when you mentioned Madela's name.

Despite having won several singing competitions like placing second in 2003's Voice of Asia International Song Festival and the release of a debut album soon of ter, the Ilonggo crooner's presence didn't quite register.

Gold medals

Things are definitely looking up for him these days, though. After being proclaimed Grand Champion Performer of the World in the 2005 World Championship of the Performing Arts and bagging half a



dozen gold medals in such diverse categories as pop and gospel, Jed has become most sought-after.

it's not surprising, really, Madela has a voice that can wipe

not only your floor, but the Boors of your neighbors—and maybe the entire barangay's. It's the kind of talent that people from all walks of life can appreciate.

He's a good overall performer, as well, with a deft hand at charming audiences, and a laidback style that makes what must be really hard work seem effortiess.

Riveting

The entire package is rivering enough to soothe the audience's displeasure at having to wait for more than half an hour for the performance to began

When Jed starts to sing everything is forgiven-the long wait, the fairly odd opening number (involving Wagner and monks' robes, don't ask), the annoying

When he starts off channeling Wagner, it's hard to be leve that this liquid voice can actually reach the heights that it's more known for--but it does.

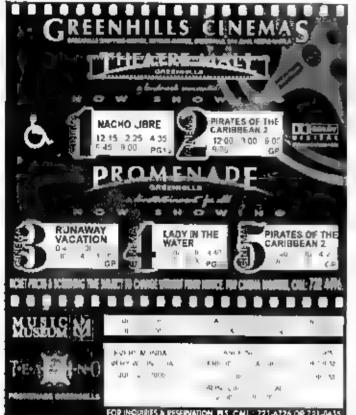
in "Joyful, Joyful," his voice

above the chaotic mix they saddied the pour song with) His range is truly impressive, and his delivery as smooth and con troiled as though he's been sing ng for more years than he's actually got

He's savvy, too, giving his repertoure enough variety-Sinatra classics, OPM tumbers, sentimental favorites, and even a bit of rap-to appeal to everyone in the audience.

The guest performers-Gail Blanco, Karlene Bayot, and Jed's own sis er Christine hold their own in the duets, and Jed gives them space to shine.

The audience leaves the theater satisfied, indeed, and with the benef that, for Jed Madela, there's nowhere else to go but up!



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Christen Christ.



The great performance that never was

By Behn Cervantes

ENROLLED WAS Columbia University in 1965 for courses in Film and Theater. It was a great time to be involved in both art forms because, while the city "that never sleeps" was then deeply involved in under ground films, theater critics also noted the impact of non-commercial off Broadway produc-

The further away the productions were from the Great White Way, the more daring they became. Because those productions were cheap, more people could afford to watch them. And they certainly provided fodder for meaningful discussions.

I had two good friends, Ditas Rivera and Mila Donato, erstwhile colegialas who resided in well-maintained dorms. Datas, a

former student leader at St cate just fabric } Scholastica's College, was taking up music education, while Mila often organized cultural events that showcased Filipino

Since we were all scholars of the East-West Center, our priors ty was to show the country off as best we could

In class, Ditas prepared a lecture on Philippine music-its origins, development and various forms, before she would present a sample of the kundimon, which I was tasked to sing. Since I did more singing then, I readily agreed to help her out. Besides, I loved performing!

The affair was menculously prepared by Ditas and Mila The walls of the hall were decked with Filipiniana. There were only and ashhs from the impressed crowd that entered the hall. (I was in a barong that elicited admiration for its deir-

Friends

I vocalized properly and was ready to render a De Leon piece I was not pervous at all, since I was used to singing in the homes of friends, ke Leonor Kilayco, Lily Dichapa and Yvonne Tayenco

Leonor and Yvonne were then taking advanced courses at the Mannes School of Music. The former used to ask me to sing in a nursing home for senior citizens every Saturday-my first "professional" performances in New York The only carely a could only sing "feel-good" songs!

After I was introduced, I briskly took my place onstage amidst polite applause. But, as soon as Ditas did her pasakalye on the piano, the tights went off!

An immediate gasp came from the audience, then murmurs ensued The building's

maintenance crew attended to the problem immediately. It was a minor problem we lhought But, the performer in me was still concerned about my musical number

Electricity

Then someone noted that there was also no electricity in the next building-and the next one, as well!

Not long after, someone formally announced what seemed incredible news: The whole of New York City had suffered a blackout! No one could believe that the greatest city in the world was in total darkness, and thousands were stuck in elevators, subways and other places dependent on electricity.

It was the Great Brownout of 1965! And I was not able to sing my kundiman. But it remains my most memorabie (non)per-

Maidens of mood, murder and mystery

himself plays in the film.

Sure, man is characterized by a complex nature, but Shyamalan's eccentric characters seem like they're plucked straight from over-the-top Mexican telen-

Collectively, they must figure out who does what to save the life of one white lady in distress-before the mystical portal to Story's parallel universe clos"White Lady"

D. Jeff Tan S: Angelica Panganiban, Pauleen Luna, JC de Vera

Jeff Tan's femme fotale story tells a simpler tale. And the new director accomplishes what many self indulgent filmmakers fail to achieve: He cooks up a horror story that capitalizes more on logical storytelling than atmosphere, gore and gimmsckry.

The production's oft-repeated varm about abuse and paranormal retribution is woven around a clear, right narrative that hems its toose ends with reash and aplomb.

Voice major Pearl Legaspi (Pauleen Luna) catches the ire of Marii (an over-the-top Iwa Moto), the campus queen bee, and her arrogant bevy of vixens when she hooks up with Robby Macuja (JC de Vera), the dreamy school heartFrom page A3-4

When people start dying, Pearl starts to uncover disturbing secrets about Robby and his friends-and about Cristina (Angehca Panganiban), Robby's former squeeze, who is said to have mysteriously dropped out of school and has since become a

But, the bodies continue to pile up, and everyone is unnerved-hecause each victim dies from the source of his/her phobia (Luis de la

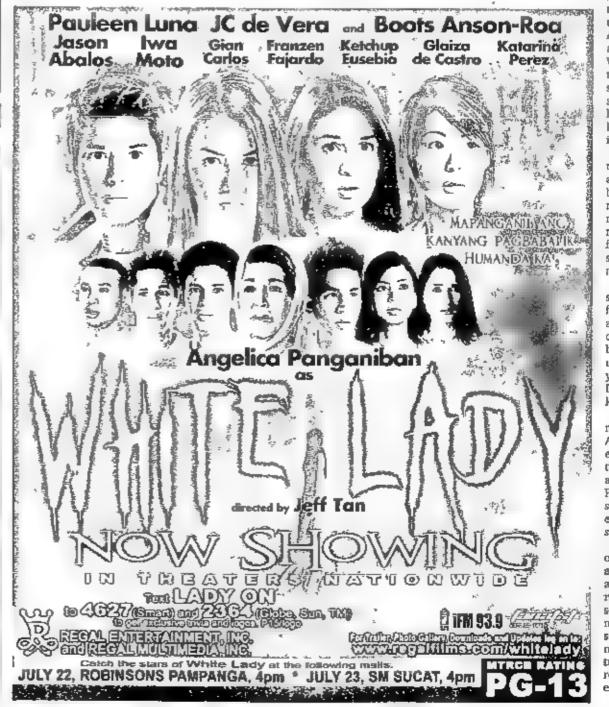
Madrid's "The Nun" treads a most the same thematic ground). And people are talking about a ghouish White Lady stalking the campus-with scores to settle. In this suburban scholastic haven, Pearl later leants, nothing is what it seems.

production may be predictable and not all that scary. but it is certainly more poushed than most local horror movies. Tan puts a refreshing, cautionary spin on the familiar moral

Moreover, Tan's visually accomplished film debut is well-told menculously ลกด้ crafted, and is further boosted by its appealing and promising young actors (Lana, De Vera, Jason Aba-

On point of performance, Lana, Boots Anson Roa (in anoth er impressive out-ofthe-box portrayal) and the beautifu. Pangan ban (who shines despite limited screen time) are standouts

But, a director can only do so much with a genre as limited and limiting as horror. So, we'd like to see how Tan's dy namic directoria. style and attention to narrative detail will. translate in a more readstic cinematic endeavor





VALENCIANO, Promo tour for "Relevance."

Faith and fun in Journeys of Faith tours and pilgrimages

JOURNEYS of FAITH CATHOLIC PILGRIM age and Cruises has uned up mine "faith and fun" journeys for 2006. Tourists and devotees can take their pick:

Sept 9-23, Incredible India and the Hemalayas (Nepa and Tibet) with optional extension to the Tay Mahal in Agra, Khajura io and Varanasi up to Sept. 28

Sept 16-30, Holy and Mystica. Europe—Portugal, Spain, France, Ita y, with Msgr. Crispin Bernarte and Fr Joseph Visperas.

Sept. 16-Oct. 5, Enthralling Eastern Butope-Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania.

Weiled Frankling From A

wenyining an aspiring guila

player/Enthusion (1994) 10

start playing electric suitar.

This package comes if it is gire 30

or instructions, cobie, strap, such p. c.

MONTAGE

Oct. 7-21 Holy and Mysticat Europe with Fr. Elmer Mangabnao, Fr. Mark Ancheta, and Fr. Ariel Musng.

Oct 16-29. Best of China.

Oct 22 Nov. 4, Treasures of the Ancient World-Turkey and Greece with Pr Renato Jose Lopez, SSi.

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Financial freedom through Sara Lee Direct Selling

Years ago, Kay San Vicente (Cabanatuan branch) and Lydia Manlo (Shaw Blvd. branch) were leading simple, ordinary lives. Their income was just enough to pay the bills and enjoy life's pleasures once in a while Because of this, both adies yearned for financial freedom.



From simple to fabulous lifestyles: Kay San Vicente (left) and Lydla Manio now enjoy fluoreta freedom thanks to Sara Lee Direct Soling.

Little did they know that they would find the way to achieve this dream through Sara Lee Direct Selling. Lydia recalls."I decided to sign up because Sara Lee has a wide range of excellent products." Adds Kay "Their products are consumables so buyers will keep on ordering these

Now successful in their respective direct selling businesses, both have scored achievements, claiming their respective spots in Sara Lee's respecof top independent business managers (IBMs) for 2006. Kay, in particular, is a second-time beneficiary of the company's Vehicle Incentive Program. (VIP). She owns four distribution centers in Nuova Edja through which she earned her first P4 million in sales early this year Likewise, Lydia is reaping the ample financial rewards and incentives from her Sara Lee Direct Selling network

With their earnings, they have acquired properties, cars and get to travel to different countries Indeed, they are now living a life of stability

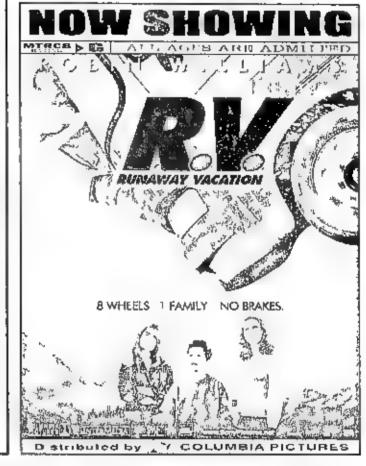
Aside from financial rewards, their careers brought out their innate leadership and mentoring abilities, which they use to motivate and Inspire their dealers to achieve success 1

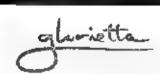
"I used to dream of being financially secure and successful," Lydia gushes."Whenever I travet, still pinch myself to make sure I'm awaka," quips Kay. "Until now, I still can't believe the wonderful things that are appening in my life

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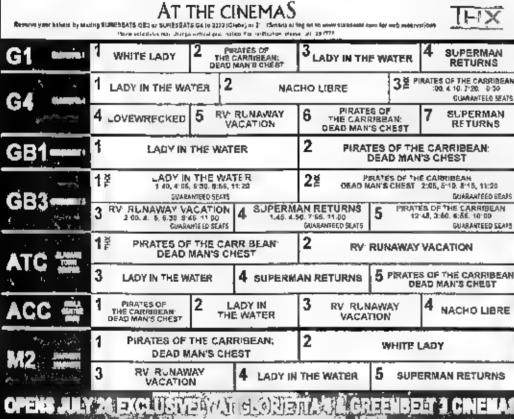


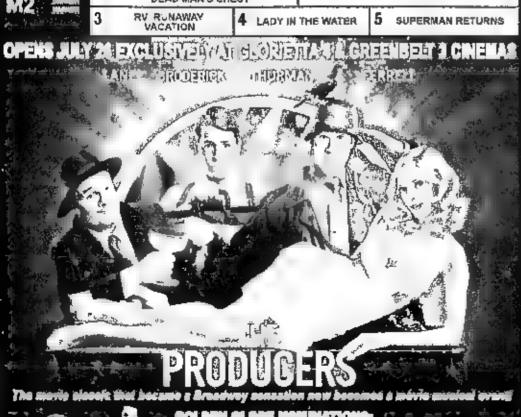












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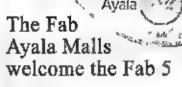
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Guillen and Abaya to receive Ateneo's Tanglaw ng Lahi Award

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FILM COMMUNITY IS HAP py to learn that acclaimed film directors Laurice Guillen and Mar-Hou Diaz-Abaya are this year's Gawad Tang.aw ng Lani awardees of the Ateneo de Manila University.

They will be honored by the trustees and president of the aniversity at a special academic convocation on July 25 at the Rev. Henry Lee Irwin Theater at the Ateneo's Loyola Heights campus

Recipients

Other recipients of the University's annua, awards are Socorro C. Ramos (Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa), Dr Conrado Dayrit (Lux-in-Domino Award). Bivira Leyes-Bautista (Paranga Lingkod Sambayanan), Dr. Ray-

mundo S. Punongbayan (Government Service Award), Dr. Teofilo T. Bangayan (Ozanam Award), and Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado, OMI and Fr Charlito Cerio Colendres (Bukes-Palad Award in memory of Fr Manue, Peypoch, SJ)

Laurice and Marilou have strong links to the Ateneo. Laurice took up graduate studies in communications at the university, while Marilou has taught film subjects there for some 20 years now, training some of the best talents working in Philippine cinema today.

Insightful

Both film directors are deemed emmently worthy of the Ateneo's prized Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi because their movies have been exceptional, insightful, entertaining and hspiring.

Some of their films have belied the loca, "superstition" that good movies don't make money because the general viewing public can't understand or relate to them,

Accessibility

Marilou's "Jose Ruzal" and Launce's "Tanging Yaman" have been both critically acclaimed and popuar hits, encouraging other committed filmmakers to also try to combine substance with accessibility.

Currently, Laurice is the chairperson of the ongoing 2006 Cinema aya alternative film festival at the Cultura, Center of the Philip-

For her part, Marilou has put up a hands-on film school, the Asia Pacific Film Institute, that has attracted students not only from the Philippines, but also from As a and the United States.

Despite their busy schedule as film industry leaders, the country's most acclaimed female directors are also preparing to shoot their next movie productons, continuing to set high filmmaking standards, and helping energize the revival of the FL pino movie industry.

Special honor

They have won many awards n the past, but the Ateneos Tanglaw ng Lahi .s a special hon or, because it expresses apprecia tion, not for an individua, production, but for each director's respective body of work

And the Fiapino film community is similarly honored, because two of its finest taients have been chosen. among other local artists and media persons for their illuminating and inspiring service to the nation.



GUILLEN AND ABAYA. Help energize the revival of the Filipino movie andustry.

Modern-day hero

RECENTLY, ABS-CBN AWARDED Mrs. Soledad Donato-Katy the top-Gawad Geny Lopez II Bayaning Pil.pino Award with no less than Sharon Cuneta introducing her:

A person's status in life is no handrance to his capacity to help Mandy others Soledad lives by this maxim. A mother of seven, she spent a considerable portion of her afe he ping the indigenous people of Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Devoted catechist

A respected community orgamizer, devoted catechist and barangay health worker, Manang Sol never ceases to look for opportuniaes to help

Because of her passion, she



MANANG SOL. Never ceases to look for opportunities to help.

STREET SMART

Navasero1

grabs every chance she gets to attend sem nars on agrarian reform and live...hood programs

Equipped with her knowledge n alternative medicine, Manang So, continues to visit far-flung areas to aid those who are sick

She serves as a link between in digenous people and the institutions (such as the Department of Agrarian Reform Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Church) that help them

Knowledge

She is not ashamed of the fact that she only finished elementary school. She's aware that her knowledge goes beyond what any university can impart

Manang Sol inspires people to make the best out of their lives, and continues to share her love and concern for her kababayan

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767

Faith and fun in Journeys. . . Hompage A3-3

Oct. 29-Nov. 6, Seven Nights, Greece and Turkey Cruse (Italy, Greece, Turkey, Croatia) Oct 29 Nov 11 Following the Gospe. Trail-Jordan, Israel and Egypt with Fr.

Lopez and Fr. Matt Claro Garcia. Nov. 5-16, Jordan and Ancient Egypt Call Arline or Rona Onglao at (632) 929-0144, (63) 917 814-8127 fax ,632, 426-7295. or email joinjourneys@gmail.com.

'Miss Universe'

Star World's live coverage of the 2006 Miss Universe beauty, pageant starts at 9 a.m. on July 24, with primetime telecast at 9 p.m., and rep ays at 11 a.m. on July 25 and 1 p.m. on July 29

Parokya ni Edgar

The Winston Wings Tour takes the Parokya ni Edgar band to 6Underground at 15C Palanca st., Legaspi Village Makati tonight Opening act is The Pin-up Girls.

On Aug. 4, Sandwich and Sugarfree perform at the Evo Music venue, Maloios, Buia-

Gary V

Gary Velenciano promotes his "Relevance" a.bum at SM Southmall at 4 p.m. today. On July 29, he will be at SM Broutan

Banares brothers

EJ and Brendon Banares are promoting their album, "Aking Inay," today at Robin-



HUNTER AND WILLIAMS, Topbel Mark Mytod's wacky comedy.

sons Place Novaliches, July 28 at SM Bicutan, July 29 at Ever Gotesco Mantia and July 30 at Ever Commonwealth.

The Kamikazee band will make a mall appearance at SM Manua at 5 p.m. today. The band will perform cuts from its "Maharot"

'The Big White'

The Robin Williams starrer, "The Big White," is now out on VCD Williams plays a travel agent in Alaska who thinks his financial troubles can be solved when he finds a frozen body in a dumpster. Money, murder and may-

hem are the names of the game in this "white" comedy set in the great outdoors. Holly Hunter co-stars and Mark Mylod directs.

'GamePlan'

"GamePlan" features at 1 30 p.m. tomorrow on Studio 23 are on the Haro Cup (a dirt bike challnege on BMX and Mountain bikes), Monofin Swimming, and China's best table tennis player

At 11 p.m. on July 26 on ABS-CBN "Probe" focuses on the effects of domestic abor on children, a young domestic worker and her harrowing experiences, and the Tinalak dreamweavers of Lake Sebu in South Cotabato.

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 22 at 9 p.m., "House of Wax." July 23 at 5 p.m., "Mad Dog and Giory."
July 24 at 11:05 p.m., "Defending Your Life."
July 25 at 4:15 p.m., "Wag the Dog." July 26 at 10:35 p.m., "JFK." July 27 at 9 p.m. "Roxanne." July 28 at 3 p.m., "The Dark Crysta.."

On Criemax, July 22 at 8 45 p.m. "The Last Samurai." July 23 at 9 p.m., "Gothika " July 24 at 6:30 p.m., "The Adventures of Brisco County Jr." July 25 at 7:55 am., "Born Yesterday." July 26 at 4 20 p.m., "Mr Deeds Goes to Town." July 27 at 4.15 p.m., "Boing Boing," July 28 at 5.45 p.m., "The



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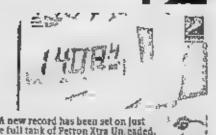
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DMCI, Metro Pacific team up for Maynilad

New joint venture eyes 84% stake in water utility

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CONSTRUCTION GIANT DMCI HOLDINGS INC. IS TEAM ing up with Hong Kong-based conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd. in bidding on the 84-percent stake held by the government in beleaguered utility Maynilad Water Services Inc.

In a disclosure to the Phiappine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday, DMCI said it was jointly bidding for the Maynilad stake with Metro Pacific Investment Corp. (MPIC), a unit of First

The winner of the public bidding will DMCI-MPIC consortium sent a letter of

get the right to subscribe to an 84-percent equity in Maynilad held by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewer-

age System (MWSS) DMCI chief finance officer Herbert Consumit said in the disclosure that the interest and all other relevant documents to the MWSS yesterday morn-

The DMCI-MPIC consortium plans to set up a separate company for its proposed bid. It will be owned equally or 50 percent each by the consortium

Metro Pacific Corp., the local arm of First Pacific, is reorganizing itself into MPIC, a company that will invest in infrastructure and power-related sectors.

DMCI, one of the country's biggest construction companies, also owns the country's largest coal mine, Semirara

Meantime, MPC's reorganization seeks to raise P2.7 billion in new capital for investments in infrastructure and power-related projects.

Not to be outdone, a consortium sed by Manila Water Co. of the Ayalas also submitted documents as part of bid prequalification requirements yesterday, industry sources said.

The consortium consists of a foreign partner, conglomerate Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan and investment firm BPI Capi-

IN THIS ISSUE **SEC** grants

Pacific Plans license

to sell B2M Healthy BOP shielding

есопотту,

group says /B7 TEVES

Teves pushes liberal invest policies By Michefle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARIto Teves has resterated calls to amend the Constitution, saying its restrictive economic provisions would make it virtually impossible for the country to achieve the 7- to 9-percent growth needed to allow economic gains to trickle down to

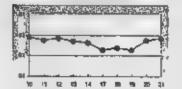
Economic managers have said that aithough previous growth rates within the 5-percent level

were respectable, the country needed its gross domestic product to grow at least 7 percent for the poor to enjoy the benefits of an economic expansion. At current growth rates, only the highincome groups were reaping the benefits, he said.

The finance chief said that to achieve the desired growth levels, the country's economic envirosument should be made more attractive for foreign investors through the liberalization of the

economic provisions of the Constitution. This would entail allowing foreign ownership and free entry of foreign businesses into the country.

"I recall when I was still a member of Congress, I was a bit frustrated that we can only handie a few economic provisions because precisely the economic provisions that we wanted discussed and debated in Congress could not be done because they were TEVES, 82



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

GOLD: \$639,40-639,90

per number Hong Keng, July 20, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower

SHABE PRICES CLOSED 0.27 percent lower yesterday as a weaker Wall Street and a rise in oil prices prompted investors to take quick profits on

the sharp gains made Thursday, dealers said. investors are also cautious about taking decisive positions before President Macapagai-Arroyo's annual address to Congress SHARES/ BZ





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July 22, 2006

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SEC grants Pacific Plans license to sell

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) has approved the application of embarded Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) to sell pre-need plans despite stiff opposition from a group of plan holders.

in an order assued yesterday, the SEC said it has approved the renewal of PPI's 2006 deater's licease, which is good for another year. The SEC has yet to issue an official certificate granting the dealer's license to PPI

In the SEC resolution, PPI will. be allowed to sell fixed-value education plans, memorial plans and pension plans

PPI has more than 400,000 plan holders.

"It is for the best interest of the public to give the company a chance to operate in line with the court's ruling approving the company's rehabilitation plan," the SEC said.

in 1992, PPI stopped selling traditional or open-ended education plans, a form of education plan that promised to pay tuition for a minimum investment amount regardless of the current rates when the plan was to be used

Today, the payments of these plans are under the supervision of the rehabilitation receiver under the alternative rehabilitation plan approved by Branch 61 of the Makati Regional Thal Court

amounted to P\$85.7 million from retained earnigs of P375.6 million and capital stock of P210 million.

The SEC said that based on thes, the company has met the minimum paid up capital of P100 million needed for a pre-need company to sell three types of plans. PPI also reported that its total trust fund-or the pool of assets that is used to pay obligations to plan holders-stood at P13-15 biliion as of Dec. 31 Actuarial reserve liabilities-or a snapshot of the firm's future oblgations to plan holders-stood at P11.8 billion, which indicated that PPI had excess deposits in its trust fund worth P1 35 ballon during the period covered.

Also in line with the Makati court's order approving PPI's rehabilitation, the SEG allowed the transfer of unsoid fixed value education and pension pians of PPPs former subsidiary Lifetime Plans Inc. back to PPI

The transfer was allowed after LPI was dissolved in May 2005 with the cancel ation of its cert ficate of incorporation due to its inability to show it had the required assets to operate, the SEC said earlier.

In a statement yesterday, PPI said it welcomed the SEC's decision. PPI president Alfredo J. Non said the 'SEC's move would enable the company to serve better its more than 400,000 fixed-plan PPI reported that its paid-up holders in the areas of education. capital as of Dec. 31 last year pension and memorial plans."

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Teves pushes ...

From page B1

enshrined in our 1987 Constitution," Teves said in a forum organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCC')

He said another Charter amendment necessary for a more vibrant economy was the shift from presidential to parliamentary system, which would allow a unicameral manner of legislation. He said that the current becameral systern was a disadvantage especially when debates between the two chambers of Congress delay the passage of vital economic bills

He cited the failure of Congress to pass the proposed P1 053-trillion national budget for 2006

"Constantly, our spending on critical infrastructure and social services as hampered, which if not corrected by a supplemental budget, would likely bring about a slower economic growth than what we envision," he said.

Economic managers said they regretted the failure of the legislature to approve the 2006 national budget, which they said was necessary to implement plans of economic pumppriming particularly through higher infrastructure spending.

The failure of Congress to pass the proposed 2006 budget was a result of the deadlock between the Lower House and the Senate. While the House wanted the P1 053-trillion budget intact, the Senate wanted it cut by removing certain infrastructure-related programs

Teves said the executive branch would more ly resort to asking Congress for a supplemental budger when it resumes session next week to allow more spending flexibility despite the need to operate on a reenacted 2005 budget

DMCI, Metro ...

Ayala's Manua Water covers the east zone, delivering water to Manda uyong, Marikina, Pasig, Pateros, San Juan, Taguig, Makati and parts of Ouezon City and Manila.

It also services the towns of Angono, Antipolo, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-Jala, Morong, Pililla, Rodriguez and San Mateo

The government regained ownership of Maymilad last year after Lopez-led Benpres Holdings Corp. gave up its water distribution business due to mounting losses

Shares close lower

from page 81

Monday given recent political tensions, they

The composite index lost 6.15 points at 2,241.25 after trading between 2,231,22 and 2,247.40. Volume was 6.6 billion shares worth P951.27 million.

The broader all-shares index retreated 1.23 points to 1,396.94

Losers led gamers 43 to 39, with 56 stocks unchanged

Onane broker 2TradeAsia.com said crude oil's climb back to \$74 a barrel due to the confact in the Middle East, capped active buying

that had emerged on Thursday. "Investors took profits following (Thursday's) very strong rise. It goes to show that the market is still not on a solid footing," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities. AFP

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Kids with rare diseases now have fighting chance

By Charles E. Buban

ICKY WAS BORN healthy so her parents did not have any reason to suspect anything. But a few months later, he started vomiting, became dehydrated and

Nicky died on his fifth month, just a few weeks after he was finally diagnosed with methylmalonic acidemia (MMA), an inherited disorder in which the body is unable to process certain proceins and

fats (lipids) properly Joshua and Jillian, two other children documented to have MMA in the Philippines, are much more fortunate since their condition was diagnosed in time and both were able to receive the special medica, formula required to manage their condition.

But their luck may change any mo-ment considering that the hard-to-find formula aiready costs P3,200 a can (each would consume three to four cans a month) and their parents could barely afford it.

Orphan diseases

Nicky, Joshua and Jillian are among the children afflicted with "orphan diseases," a term that is defined as any disease which has not been "adopted" by the pharmaceutical industry because it

Orphan diseases fast facts

HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR ORPHAN DISORDERS Inc. Intends to have a law passed patterned after the United States Orphan Drug Act of 1983, which offered tax incentives on clinical trials and seven years of marketing exclusivity for drugs developed for conditions that occur only rarely in the US. Since it was passed, more than 200 orphan drugs have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and are on the market

The European Union, Japan, Australia and Taiwan have each passed a legislation. similar to the US law.

Magdaraog reports that since many of these orphan diseases are genetic in gature, the Institute of Human Genetics of the University of the Philippines Manila's National Institutes of Health and the Genetics Clinics of the Philippine General Hospital's Department of Pediatrics are at the forefront of identifying if an individual is afflicted

In the past 12 years, the two agencies have identified more than 50 cases of rare diseases in country.

private sector to make and market new medications to treat or prevent it.

As a result, these children are often left to fend for themselves and compelled to live a life that is deprived, desperate and oftentimes short.

"The term orphan disease captures well the loneliness many of these chil dren, their families and researchers of these rare disorders face. However, I beheve no disease is too rare or no field is too small to be worthy of study and support." Cynrhia Magdaraog says.

With the support of several friends and in coordination with several organizations, Magdaraog formally launched

provides little financial incentive for the last month the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders Inc. (www.psod.org.ph), nonprofit organization dedicated to the identification, treatment and cure of orphan diseases in the hope of making a difference in the lives of afflicted chil-

National priority

The PSOD hopes that the research for orphan diseases as well as support for those afflicted be included among the country's priorities

Magdaraog explains that since the majority of Filipinos who suffer from orphan diseases belong to the financially challenged segment, they won't have

enough resources to properly diagnose and manage their condition

And because of such rarity, their conditions may go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed for longer periods than better-understood diseases. Also, the small num-ber of patients involved means there are few financial incentives for private compames (mostly pharmaceutical firms) to engage in research to combat them.

In the Philippines there are just over a hundred documented cases of children with orphan diseases. Some like 11month-old Xyrelle, who has Maple Syrup Urine Disease (a disorder in the body's ability to use three of the essential amino acids in protein), need to be fed with a special formula that at the moment, only pharmaceutical company Mead Johnson makes," Magdaraog reports

At the moment, a crucial challenge for PSOD is how to coordinate the procurement and importation of these medicanons from abroad

Dream realized

For Magdaraog, the launch of the

Stand or sit near concrete columns.

For bed-ridden patients, have a pillow

on their heads to protect them from

PSOD is a realization of her dream for her 28-year-old son Dickoy who is incopacitated from a rare disease.

"My son Dickoy has been battling Pompe's disease for over 18 years now. (The disease) is a rare genetic disorder causing progressive weakness of respiratory muscles in the trunk, diaphragm and lower limbs, as well as exercise ntolerance," she says

Now confined to a wheelchair, aided by a breathing machine, Dickoy depends on his brother to perform simple tasks He still considers himself lucky as he was able to finish his course in Industrial Design and was even able to set up a small (web design) business.

"I was fortunate enough that my family has some resources that allowed us to explore possibilities. But not all people who are suffering from orphan diseases are as lucky as I am. I hope that through this new organization that my mother helped establish, people would be more enlightened and perhaps be convinced to share their resources and talent to give us a fighting chance," Dickoy stresses

Preparing for earthquakes in a hospital setting

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

EXPERTS SAY WE'RE DUE FOR A BIG killer quake, just like what happened in Indonesia two months ago, which killed close to 5,000 people. (t's not reassuring that many

Metro Manila schools, MEDICAL FILES hospitals and other busi-

ness establishments have been identified as highly vulnerable to a strong quake The Phivoics estimates tens of thousands of deaths and more than 100,000 persons being injured with 30 percent damage in houses and buildings in Metro Manila for a 7.2 magnitude earthquake

In a hospital setting, what can we do to protect our bed-ridden patients or what should they do to protect themselves? What should physicians and surgeons do when an earthquake occurs in the middle of an operation or delivery of a baby?

Comprehensive plan

Dr. Reynaldo Joson, chair of the disas-

la Doctors Hospital, reviewed the status of most hospitals' earthquake preparedness and response plan, and found an appailing lack of information. In fact, if you search the literature, there is hardly any

published earthquake preparedness gram. Dr. Joson's committee came up with a comprehensive plan

that took into consideration the peculiarities in a hospital setting.

The earthquake preparedness and response plan of a hospital is very different from that of the schools and business establishments. "The earthquake preparedness and response plan for the hospitals is more complicated because of the presence of sick people who are difficult to protect and evacuate," explains Dr. Jo-

For hospitals which still don't have an earthquake response plan, Dr. Joson is generously sharing their plan. They tested this plan with an actual drill last June ter preparedness committee of the Mani- 20 at the Manila Doctors Hospital and

they found it comprehensive enough, simple and easy to implement, The MDH drill was participated in by 623 staff, 300 patients and 228 visitors

What to do

So what to do when an earthquake strikes and you are in a hospital.

· Once you feel there is an earthquake, keep calm and do not panic.

 Stay where you are. Move only a few steps to a nearby safe place. Do not go inside a room, if you are outside. Do not go outside a room if you are inside

Instruct and assist persons who do not know what to do and who are disabled If inside the room, for ambulatory persons (staff, patients, and visitors):

 Open the door to prevent possible samming. You may stand under the door

 Move away from windows, glass, hight fornites, bookshelves, or any structure that could fall on you.

 "Drop, cover and hold" under sturdy tables if present.

falling objects

Watch out for falling objects.

For staff and patients in the operating. delivery and treatment rooms: If in the middle of an operation or procedure, stop for a while but make sure there is no ongoing bleeding, oxygenation is main-tained, and the life of patients is not un-

duly compromised. Watch out for falling objects and be ready to protect the patients and yourself. If outside the room—in the lobby,

along a corridor or hallway, on the stairs, Stay where you are. Move only a few

steps to a nearby safe place. Move away from windows, glass

ght fixtures, or any structure that could

Stand or sit near concrete columns.

 Watch out for falling objects Remain in this position until the "shaking" stops

"if outside a room "

If inside the elevators, get off at the

next floor and follow instructions under

Postquake activities

After the earthquake,

1. Prepare for possible evacuation Look for Indications for evacuation such

 Signs of impending fall of debris and structures.

· Signs of impending collapse of rooms/buildings

Strong repeated shocks

2. Listen for evacuation announcement from hospital authority.

3. Warch out for fire, potential explosion, gas leaks, damage to electrical system, damage to water system.

Report cracks on the wall, danger spots and physical injuries to hospital au-

For further information you may visit http://maruladoctors.tripod.com/dpp/ disasterhum or email Dr. Joson at rjoson2001@yahoo.com.

The memory of sleep

DISCOVER

IN THE MOVIE "50 FIRST DATES," Drew Barrymore plays a woman named Lucy whose short-term memory was affected by a car accident. She remembers her life before the accident, but when she falls asleep at the end of the day, she awakens each morning with no memory of the previous day's events.

One of the most fascinating scenes in the movie however, is when Barry- Massie more's character reveals a studio filled with portraits of Adam San- Santos Ballon dler's character Henry, of whom she

has deliberately ensured she has no memories. Technically, it seems, that latter statement was untrue: Lucy has no episodic or declarative memories of Henry where she can consciously recall having spent any time with him, be it the previous day or at all. However, Lucy's nondeclarative memory—her unconscious memo-nes of skills learned such as how to ride a bike—is fine, as evidenced by her ability to draw the same face—Henry's—over and over again.

Link quite established

Given Lucy's behavior, a recent paper in the July 11th issue of the journal Current Biology might well lead one to wonder whether or not the night's sleep that seemingly crases her episodic memory also helps her retain her nondeclarative memories. Based on the experimental results derived by lead author Jeffrey Ellen-bogen at Harvard Medical School and his colleagues from the University of Oregon and the University of Pennsylvania, the link herween sleep and nondeclarative memory appears quite established.

For their study, Ellenbogen et al. worked with 5 groups of a dozen people each, assigning each group a list of 20 word pairs to memorize by heart with the aid of a computer exercise. The 2 Sieep groups memorized the word pairs at 9 p.m. and then were asked to return at 9 o clock the following morning after a good night's steep to see how well they remembered the words. The 2 Wake groups memorized the word pairs at 9 a.m. and were asked to return for testing at 9 p.m. following a full day's activities.

The final group was trained at 9 p.m. and then asked to return at 9 p.m. the following day

after having both a night's sleep and a full day's activities to see how well they remembered the list of

Additional task

Ellenbogen et al. tacked on an additional task for one of the Sleep and one Wake group, called Sleep 1 and Wake-1 to differentiate them from the other groups: upon returning for their memory tests, these participants were given a sec-

and list of 20 word pairs, where half of each pair was the same as a word on the previous list. Once the second list was memorized the participants went through a distraction exercise just before being asked to recall as many pairs as possible from the first list.

The researchers found that the Wake group had an average score of 82 percent recall while the Wake-1 group, being distracted, had an av-erage scare of 32 percent. On the other hand, the Sleep group had an average score of 94 percent and Sleep I group had an average score of 76 percent for the first list. The 24-hour group had an average score of 71 percent. (Both the Sleep 1 and Wake-1 groups had average scores of over 90 percent for the second list.)

Cramming can work

Based on these results, Ellenbogen et al. determined that sleep does in fact help retain recently acquired memories. While the Wake group's results could arguably demonstrate that cramming can work, the Wake-1 results show that this is true only when students go straight from studying for a specific subject to taking

What the study does not explain is how Lucy vas able to remember Henry's face-arguably the movie's premise need not be fact-based, but it is fair to point out that the researchers only dealt with nondeclarative memory rather than episodac memory for this paper. Perhaps a future study could answer that question, focusing on whether or not episodic memories could become nondeclarative ones. The results of that study could explain just why Lucy remembers the face of a man she's never mer.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com

Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit and tree of life

I HAD HEARD ABOUT DR. CONRAdo Dayrit before we met. My father William, UP Medicine Class of 1960, spoke fondly of his former professor, the tireless scientist, researcher and doctor. So when I invited him and his genteel wife Mila to dinner a few years back, mainly to renew ties with my father, I was not surprised when the discussion started with students and classmates. But I did not realize that one of my bealth myths would be shattered: contrary to what my diet books said, coconut oil was not only not harmful, but it was actually beneficial to us.

With passion the gende doctor re-lated a sad tale. Up tall the end of the Second World War, encount oil was widely used throughout the world, and the tree of life was a major export crop for our country. But in the mid-1980s, the emerging soybean industry in the US lobbied against tropical oils, warning against the alleged dangers of coconuc's highly saturated-compared to soybean's unsaturated—fat content. The campaign became so effective that encount oil was soon shunned--even in the Philip-

Health benefits of coconut

Our coconat industry deteriorated, with land increasingly converted into industrial and commercial areas. To make matters worse, the accusations levied against coconut oil were simply not true. In 1960 Dr. Daynr had already penned an editorial for the Journal of the Philippine Medical As-sociation on the health benefits of coconut. In the next decades, here and abroad Dr. Dayrir reiterated that far from causing beart disease, commut of may even prevent it, and many other illnesses, besides.

How? The fat in coconut is launc-



acid, not cholesterol, and it can kill vinises, bacteria and fungi, such as those causing herpes, ulcers and ringworm. Similar to the substance found in mother's milk that protects infants from illness, lauric acid can strengthen our immune system, and even combat AIDS. In 2000, Dr Dayrit led a Department of Health study to eatablish the anti-HIV effects of coconut oil in 15 AIDS parients in San Lazaro Hospital, Manila Within six mouths, most of the patients showed a reduced viral count, with no serious side effects. Perhaps encount oil may also fight SARS and bird flu. After grade school, high school and

college at the Atenen de Manila, Dr. Dayrit graduated from the University of the Phurppines in 1943 and went for further training in clinical pharmacology in the United States. Upon his return here, Dr Dayrit became one of the founders of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), in fact, he is now the only one alive (a tribute, shall we say to cocomit oil). In 1953, he was part of the team who performed the first open heart surgery at the Philippine General Hospital. In 1955, for his work on digitalis for heast patients, the Sunday Times Magazine deemed him "Most Outstanding Young Man in Science," the forerunner of today's The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM). Dr. Dayrit joined an all-Filiping drug company, United Laboratories, where he estab ashed a research arm. Throughout his career, he has tried his best to produce low-cost medicines for the poor

Like the best scientific minds, Dr.

A light in this world

Dayrit made contributions to severa, disciplines: nutrition, tuberculosis control, hormones, analgesics, antinflammatories, anticancer drugs. He wrote popular science books and journal articles, and received many awards for research, teaching and lifetime achievement. Today Dr. Dayrit is an Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology, professor emeritus at the UP College of Medicine, medical director of the Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center, president of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Colleges, emerirus editor in chief of the Philippine Journal of Interna. Medicine, board member of the Philippine Institute for Pure and Appned Chemistry in the Ateneo.

Dr. Dayrit is justly proud of his eight children and more than 20 grandchildren-all achievers in their own right. His children, all professionais, include a former health secretary, a pulmonologist, an exporter, bankers, educators and the current Ateneo Dean of the School of Science

and Engineering.
I have seen Dr. Dayrit work his magic on children firsthand. After dinner, he and his wife invited us to their home, where he serenaded us with the violin. My son, then three years old, sat enraptured, a beatific smale on his face.

On Thesday, the Ateneo de Manda University will bestow the Law in Domino Award to Dr. Dayrit, who through his words and actions, embodies wisdom, courage and integrity. Truly, he is a light in our world

E-mail the author at blessbook@ya-

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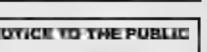
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PALSCON (Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors) attends the 6th National PESO Congress at Cagayan De Oro City on July 20. Seated from right, Mr. Ignacio "Boy" Diaz, QC PESO monager; Mr. Peter C. Capitan, notional PESO president; Ms. Ma. Luisa Gigette Imperial, Bureau of Local Employment director; and lawyer Giovanni H. Melgar, Poiscon president and one of the resource speakers.

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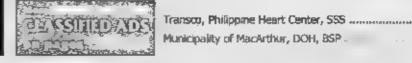


Emilio B. Calvario

This is to inform the public that Mr Emilio B. Calvario, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Ingasco Inc. effective July 16, 2006

Any transaction entered into or made through him shall not be honored by ingasco, inc.

(PDI - July 22, 2006)



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(PDL -July 21, 22 & 23, 2005)

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"I am the way, the truth and the life
No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

Atty. Eugenia Marfori-Celi

November 15, 1920 - July 20, 2006

Peacefully joined our Lord and her beloved husband **Alfredo M. Celi**, sister **Estela M. Posadas**, brother **Mario L. Marfori**.

Her beloved child **Maria Estela** request the pious reader to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Ruby Street, Marfori Heights, Davao City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at San Pedro Memorial Park, Davao City after a mass at 8:00 am at the Assumption Church Torres.



Our dearly beloved

Clara Evangelista Catindig

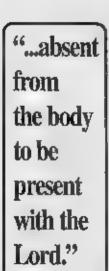
Peacefully joined our Creator on July 20, 2006 at the age of 68.

She will be missed by
her loving husband Ben
children Clarissa & Alfie, Pompeyo & Len, Sidney and Benjor
grandchildren Enzo, Gabby, Cassandra, Isabelle Maegan & Miggy
relatives and friends.

Your prayers are requested for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Lumbang Room Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque from July 21 to July 23, 2006

We love you Mom.



2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Beloved
DR. FRANCES "FRANKIE"
JAVIER BLANCO-DIZON
(UP College of Medicine Classs '95)

Peacefully joined our Creator and her father, the late Chalo Bianco, on July 16, 2006 at the age of 34.

Her bereaved husband Raymond; mother Josie, brother Joey; grandma Thay; titos/titas, cousins, nieces/nephews, ur-laws, friends and colleagues request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of her sou, and everlasting joy in the eternal kingdom of our Creator. Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 14.3rd Street, Don E. Sero, Cotabato City Interment will be on July 25, 2006 at Marian Hills, Cotabato City after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.





Message of Chanks

We the family of the late

Tourdes (Tudy) Sabido Aguirre

wish to convey our deepest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for their undying love, concern and support for Ludy.

Her loving husband **Pedro**, children and grandchildren wish that you include her in your prayers.

Nightly novens masses will be held at 6:30 pm until Thursday at their residence in Narra

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Rainy day rooms discounts and affordable party packages at City Garden

you on a grand rainy days getaway. Check in in one of its guest rooms that come for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis. This already includes a sumpruous buffer breakfast at the Le Jardin.

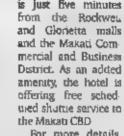
After check-in, try out its fully equipped gym, or better yet, you may opt to explore nearby Powerplant Mall at Rockwell or Glorierta Mall for some shopping.

Party packages go for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks. Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as PS9,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenits, floral arrangements, and other amenities. Reception venues may be held at its cozy, fully equipped function



rooms or at the al fresco roof deck, with a wonderful view of the metropolis. Hold your party on a weekday and enjoy further discount of almost 10 to 30 percent from the

Accessibility is also not a problem as the hotel



For more details, City Garden Hotel

Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, call 899-1111, or its domestic toil free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com



SHOWER seafood dishes happens Alabang's favorite food haunt, The Bellevue Hotel, every Foday at the lunch and dinner buffets at the hotel's main diring outlet, the Café d' Asie. For only P795++, feast on the fruits of the sea with succulent seafood dish-

es sucir as Scallops Hollandarse, Jumbo Shrimps A La Nage, Fillet of Red Snapper, Rellenong Pusit, Steamed Crab with Ginger and Leeks and Singaporean Chili Mussels.

A harmonious duet of dark and white chocolate ganache on pâté a bombé, The Beilevue Hotel's Cake of the Month for July is Chocolate Duo. Made to satisfy every chocolate lover's fantasy, this sweet sensation is lovingly made by the hotel's expert pastry chefs. Give as a gift or enjoy as perfect endings to sumpruous meals.



This entertainment and leisure destination of choice in the southern Metro Mania area also invites ev eryone to put on their dancing shoes for the Bellevue exciting Dance Party on Saturday, July 29 at the hotel's 20/20 Entertainment Bar. Held every

other Saturdays at 7 p.m., the event relives the dance music fever of the '70s, '60s and other all-time favorite tunes in a dance arena overlooking the beautiful might lights of the south. Tapping the genius of Poncy Quinno, a well-known party organizer during the '70s and himself a dance master, this event will undoubtedly shake the southern Metro Manila party scene. Entrance fee of P500 nett gets you in with two standard drinks, plus a special happy hour rate happens at the stroke of midnight. For inquiries, call 771-8181



137TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CALIBROYION OF DR. IVO VALENZUELA

Valenzuela City Mayor Shorwin T. Gatchalian with Mar Arenas and Vice-Mayor Antonio Espiritu at the Opening of the Valenzuela City Center for the Perfroming Arts during the 137th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Dr. Pio Valenzuela

People, Events Products

iBOS/e eHR realizes 'paperless HR'

HR MANAGERS HAVE ALWAYS DREAMT OF DIGITIZING THE TONS OF employee records and documents that pile up in their desks and filling cabinets. But their dream has remained just that - a big elusive dream Enter #10S/e eHR, TBUS/e eHR is a suite of web-based HR modules powered by iBOS/e WebShell, the Business Flow pillar of DIET (Digital Infostructure Enterprise). Among these modules are: i80S/e effectuitment: i80S/e eMovements, IBOS/e ePerformance; (BOS/e eCompensation; iBOS/e eBenefits. itning, i80S/s eLeaves. i80S/s ePayrolt: i80S/s eTimel iBOS/e eHR enables employees to "self-serve" their HR services need. Because the HR Team is not anymore bogged down by the never-ending phone calls from employees, it can now spend more time on strategic HR efforts such as strategizing talent retention programs, analyzing causes of resignations, etc. iBOS/e eHR works in conjunction with BOS/e PeopleWARE, the workhorse of the HR Team. White iBOS/e eHR provides employees with webbased access to HP information and services right from their desktops, BOS/e PeopleWARE fully automates the day-to-day tasks of the HR Team such as employee records management, leave processing, payroll computation, among others. Infostructure Systems & Consulting Corp, holds main offices on the 12/F of 6780 Ayala Ave., Makati City Metro Manila Philippines with tel. nos. +632-893-8844, +632-892-3325, you may e-mail infestructure@eenterprise.net or visit www.infostructure.com.ph.

Hapee Freshcapades at Metrowalk

NOT EVEN THE RAIN COULD BRING DOWN THE FEVER HEAT IN Metrowalk-Ortigas when Happe Freshcapades toothgels invaded the newest lessure hub with five of the country's hottest alternative bands. Thousands of students and yuppies across the metro partiad 'til midnight with Join the Club, Kala, Sandwich, Bloomfields, and Kiwan in the recently held Hapee Freshcapades Back-to-School Bash. As it listening to the bands' hits wasn't arrough, the excitement went on as lucky guests won brand new toods, coor shirts and gift packs from Hapee Freshcapades. And as an added bonus, 16 students came home with a promise of 10 months worth of baon! The Hapee Freshcapades Back-to-School Bash is co-sponsored by Wave 89.1, 99 5 RT K-Lite 103.5, and Jam 88 3

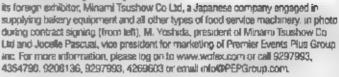


CONTRACTOR OF THE ORDER THE PARTY.

Intel and Aper, through their respective representative offices here in the Philippines, Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Inc. and Acer Philippines, Inc., recently conducted a "Technology and Product Update" at the Crowns Plaza in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The event enjoyed brisk attendance, as people gathered and listened intently as presentors from both companies showcased and re-acquainted guests with products from the world's number 2 PC vendor, all powered by processors manufactured by Intel, the world's largest semiconductor and processor manufacturer. Shown are (from left) Carlo Subido, business solutions manager, Intel Microelectronics Philis., Jun M. Garcia, IT strategy and planning head, Ambergris Solutions., Asst. Commissioner Alberto Pio de Roda, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Manuel L. Wong, general manager, Acer Philippines, Inc.

IAPANESE BAKING TECHNOLOGY AT WORLD

World Food Expe (WOFEX 2006) as an - A A Life Brok aren 11 d worldwide food and heverages machineries & technology to be held this Aug. 2 to 5 at World Trade Center Inc. Only on its 6th year of inception, WOFEX has already gamered the respect and admiration of the players in the food and beverage industry. One of



CERVEZA NEGRA JAZZ TOUR KICKS OFF

Lovers of jazz music get a rare treat as Cerveza Negra holds its Jazz Tour from June to December at select establishments in Manila, Makati. Quezon City, and Greenhills. The tour onesented by the Philippines' only dark beer has successfully ricked off at M Café, Greenbett 4, Maket) City featuring Mon David, grand prize winner in the first London International Jazz competition. The tour enticing audiences and beer lovers to. Seize the Night, Enjoy the Dark' include other performances at Quattro in Quezon City on June 30: Phi Bar at Metrowalk on July 15; Hard Rock Makati on Aug. 4; and Dapo Bar & Resto in Quezon City on Aug. 18. The Cerveza

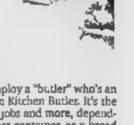


Negra offer to be captivated by sensuous jazz music continues at Oyster Boy Greenhills, Matt in Makatt II Ponticello Makati Chef & Brewer In Orticas. Blue Wave Malate, Club Mafla in Libis, and Bistro 110 in Makati on dates to be announced later

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Who needs a butler?

YOU DO. WITH THE MULITIUDE of tasks you have to face day in, day out, every hardworking mom like you could use one. Good thing, you can now make your domestic



chores a lot more manageable with a different kind of "butler". In the kitchen, employ a "butler" who's an expert "muln-tasker" Introducing the Orocan Kitchen Butler. It's the ideal candidate because it can perform three jobs and more, depending on the boss' call. You can have it as a glass container, as a bread butier, or even as temporary food storage. With the Orocan Kitchen Butler, you can be sure that food is kept safe and clean at all times. Available in peach, blue, green, red and tapioca colors, the Orocan Kitchen Butler has a dome-shaped, semi-transparent sliding cover which easily and smoothly opens on both sides without getting stuck in the middle. Just like all other Orocan products, The Kitchen Buttler is durable and will surely serve your family well for a long, long time.

Healthy BOP, OFW remittances shielding economy, group says

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY proved resilient despite recent disturbances in the financial market caused by rising interest rates

relatively healthy balance of payments position and substantial gains on the fiscal front.

made by the Institute of International Finance Inc. (IIF), which projected that the Philippines was still poised to meet the lowend of its economic growth target for the year despite chal-lenges posed by an adverse investment climate.

The Arroyo administration wants to hit a gross domestic product growth (GDP) of 5.5-6.2 percent this year

IIF, a global organization of international banks and other fipolitical concerns such as those related to calls for constitutional amendments could have dampening effects on investments.

But it added that these were not significant enough to weaken the country's macroeconomic fundamentals.

Institute expects RP to meet low end of GDP growth target

The weak popular standing of The country was aided by the President (Gloria Macapagal) Arroyo and a protracted debate over constitutional reform are hobbung new initiatives needed This was the assessment to revive investment and sustain strong growth over the medium term, although the balance of payments and the economy have become more resilient to both domestic and external shocks," IIF said in its recent assessment of the Philippine economy.

> The Philippines' BOP position stood at a surplus of \$2.04 billion in the first half of the year, up from \$1.98 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The BOP surplus was attributed to a strong exports perfornancial institutions, noted that mance and remittances from overseas Falipino workers.

In the first six months, the country's exports grew 16 percent year-on-year to reach \$18.687 billion.

The exports growth was double the 8-percent export growth target for the year.

IFF said this was expected to help the country maintain a carrent account balance of \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion this year and next

To show that it was serious about fighting inflation, the US Federal Reserve had implemented 17 successive interest rate hikes since June 2004, with the Fed rate brought recently to 5.25 percent."

The increase had stirred the international financial market given the impact of US rate adjustments on the movement of capi-

An increase in US interest rate makes bonds issued by emerging economies like the Philippines less attractive, therefore possibly triggering capital flight

The hikes in US interest rate. although seen ending for the time being, forced central banks in some emerging economies to raise their own policy rates in the

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilip-

mas, however, opted to keep its rate unchanged

The last time the BSP hiked rates was in October last year, when the overnight borrowing and lending rates were increased by 25 basis points to 7.5 and 9 75 percent, respectively.

IF said an improving fiscal condition helped the Philippine weather the impact of rising in-

"The 91 day Treasury bill rate jumped from a four-year low of 5.2 percent in mid-April to 9.1 percent in mid-June at the height of the market turmoil, but receded to 7.1 percent to mid-Juty," the IFF noted

The national government recorded three consecutive monthly surplus to June, settling the fiscal position in the first half of the year to a deficit of only P31.5 billion, much lower than the P90.4-billion ceiling set for the period and the P67 5-billion deficit recorded during the same period last year.

IIF said gains in the fiscal sector were reasons why investor confidence in the country's credit standing was not much affected by the volatile international financia, market

Big power consumers to soon choose own supplier of electricity

By Abigail L. Ho

CUSTOMERS OF THE LOPEZ-RUN Manila Electric Co. with an average demand of at least 1 megawatt (MW) a month may soon be able to choose their own power supplier.

SHEETH FOR BULL FORD

Canadian International Development Agency.

President Macapagal-Arroyo inspects Christmas lanterns made by a

cooperative in Las Piñas during a guided tour of the product booths

at the Sulong Negosyo Small and Medium Enterprises exposition in

Market Market, Bonifacio Global City. The exposition was organized

by the Department of Trade and Industry in cooperation with donor

agencies such as the German Technical Cooperation and the

This developed as the National Power Corp. nears an agreement with the distribution utility on the implementation of the "Customer Choice

We have been conducting contintious discussions with Metalco. A. though there are still some issues that have to be resolved, there are already some agreements reached," Napocor corporate communications officer-mcharge Alma Hermosura said.

She did not elaborate.

In a letter addressed to President Macapaga.-Arroyo, Meralco cha r and chief executive Manuel Lopez last April gave an "unconditional of fer" to exclude big industrial and commercial customers from the dis-

even before the declaration of retail competition and open access.

Shortly after giving that offer, Merareo informed its customers of the planned "Customer Choice Program," saying in a letter that those who would not qualify for or benefit from Napocor's time-of-use (TOU) rates could still opt for Meralco's average mixed generation charges.

"The program being contemplated is in essence, purely vocuntary and provides some potential benefits of retail. competition," Meralco told customers.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said Meralco's offer would help enable the industrial sector avail themselves of the lower TOU rates of Napocoz, which would, in turn, help reduce their cost of doing business in the Meralco franchise area.

This would likewise promote investments and the creation of additional jobs, as well as help push privatization forward by creating a new

tribution utility's captive market, market for potential buyers of Napocor plants that would be placed on the auction block, he added

To facilitate the implementation of the program, Ms Arroyo directed Napocor and the National Transmission Corp. to finalize details of the new arrangement with Meralco, ideally within two weeks of the presentation of the offer

The scheme could be implemented immediately after the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of the details and mechanics of the new assurgement.

The mechanics of the program had yet to be finalized, although Napocor's Hermosura said the state firm was "optimistic" that an agreement between it and Meralco would be reached soon.

Once implemented, the Customer Choice Program will enable Meralco's large commercial and industrial customers to take advantage of Napocor's TOU rates by shifting their load to offpeak hours when races are cheaper.

RP, China ink pact to rehab, upgrade south railways

PEOple's Republic of China have signed a memorandum of understanding that would lead to the full operation of the railway from Calamba, Laguna to Matnog, Sorsogon.

The agreement binds the Chinese and Philippine governments to undertake rehabilitation and upgrading of the railroad, bridges and bends for faster, safer and efficient train services from Southern Tagaing to the gateway to the Visayas and Mindanao at the Matnog Ferry Terminal-stretching 542 kilometers.

The 542-km railway stretch has june tions at Calamba-Lucena, Lucena 5 pocot, Sipocot-Naga, Naga-Legazpi and Legazpi-Matnog, which is yet to be constructed.

The document was signed last June 5 by the National Economic Development Authority, on behalf of the Philippine government, and the Ministry of Commerce of the

PRC agreed to provide financing for the

project that will extend railway services to Mamog, Sorsogon, more than 100 km from Legazpi City junction where the south railway services currently ends.

Under the agreement, China will provide concessional loans to help bankroil the am-

With the MOU signed, both parties will appoint companies or organizations to implement the project.

To track and review the performance of the project, the Philippine and Chinese governments agreed to create the Philippine-China Economic Joint Working Group to be chaired by Neda

It will also be through this joint working group that the two parties will consult each other on any issues that may arise during project implementation.

The MOU between the Philippine and Chinese governments declares their adherence to the development of friendly relations and "economic and technical cooperation." Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luson Bureau

أأتله

BUSINESSBRIEFS Public sector deficit down

THE COUNTRY'S CONSOL-DATED PUBLIC SECtor deficil (CSPD) dropped 35 percent to only P39.2 billion in the first quarter

CPSD is the combined budget gaps of the national povernment, government-owned and -controlled corporations, social security institutions and local government units.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the latest CPSO was lower than the P77.1 billion programmed for the period and the P51-1 billion recorded in the first quarter of The CPSD in the first three months was equiv-

alent to 2.4 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The BOF earlier announced that the national government posted a budget deficit of P67 6 bil-

fion in the first quarter, lower than the programmed P71 8 billion The better-than-programmed deficit of the national government was attributed to the growth in

revenue collection. The fiscal performance of the national government, which slightly breached its spending limits during the period, was influenced by the ancouraging ravenue generation performance by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Cus-Michelle V. Ramo

Cebu Pac goes to Legazpi

CEBU PACIFIC IS BENT ON FLYING TO LEGAZPI City despite fears of a Mt. Mayon eruption and has even offered a one-way rate of P99.

The budget carrier acknowledged concarns on the heightened activity of Mayor. volcano but said the level 3 a ert raised in Albay had not affected flights to and from Legazpi City.

Caba Pacific Air corporate communications manager Marjor e Vallente stressed that CEB and the Air Transport Office uphold "the highest possible standard on safety for airline operations" and that operations were expected to run smoothly as long as surlines are cleared

The Legazpi service was the third new domestic destination that CEB launched this year following the opening of the Dipolog and Lacag services. The budget airline has also announced the opening of its Singapore flights and the continued arrival of new Airbus aircraft for its domestic and regional expansion project. Riza T. Dichondra

FOR ONLY P1,499+

Fly to the Lion City with Cebu Pacific at a special seat sale offer.

Sale Period: July 20 to 26, 2006 Travel Period: August 31 to October 19, 2006

Starting August 31, 2006 Cebu Pacific will fly to Singapore daily using our brand new Airbus A319 aircraft. With the low, low air fare, every Juan can now fly to Singapore.

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Cail (02) 70-20-888 or visit our Cebu Pacific office or the Travel Asent nearest you.

PROPERTY

Saving energy through landscaping

WANT TO FIND A COST-EFFECT ive way to save energy at the same time beautify your immediate surroundings? Landscaping could be the answer Planting trees, vines, grasses and hedges could be your long-term investment to reduce energy bills while at the same time help improve the living conditions in your commu-

Planting trees and vegetation is an effective way to reduce heat island effect. Heat island effect refers to the buildup of heat in urban ageas brought about by many hard surfaces like concrete and metal, absorbing heat in the day and slowly releasing it at night. This is the main reason urban areas are some degrees warmer than nursl

Reducing heat island effect.

Widespread planting in a community can decrease local surface and air temperatures. This is why parks and forested areas are much cooler than the nearby city streets Shading and evapotranspiration (the evaporation of water from leaves) reduces the amount of solar radiation transmitted to underlying surfaces, keeping them cool. Shaded walls may be 5° C to 20° C cooler than surfaces exposed to the sun. These cooler walls decrease the quantity of heat transmitted to buildings, which in turn lowers the air-conditioning costs. Cooler surfaces also reduce the heat island effect by cutting down on heat transfer to the surrounding air.

A city like Mamia could seam from studies that have been conducted in California that show summer daytime temperatures to be 2° C to 3° C cooler in tree-shad-

ARCHITRENDS Amado de Jesus

ed neighborhoods than treeless at-

Environmental benefits

Widespread tree planting and climate-adapted landscaping, m done by many of our Aman neighbors, tike Singapore and Malaysia, for example, offer substantial environmental benefits. Trees and vegecation control erosion, protect water supplies, provide food, creare habitat for wildlife and clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

If Metro Manila would extensively and aggressively plant trees in many of its open spaces and ighten the color of dark urban surfaces like roofs, for example, it would result in annual energy savings of billions of kilowatt-hours consumed every year by air-conditioners, on which Metro Manila has become more and more dependent due to global warming. This would reduce power plant emissions of carbon dioxide annually and save users of electricity milsions of perox each year.

Other benefits

Landscaped urban areas provide additional benefits. For example, during heavy rains, the ground can become saturated and turn excess water runoff causing flooding and pollution of open water bodies. This is worsened by large areas of water-resistant surfaces in urban. areas like roadways and pavements. Trees and vegetation can help reduce these problems by decreasing the volume of runoff, minmixing flooding and cutting down on energy used for pumps in floods gates and water control areas.

Trees and vegetation can also help improve the quality of life by reducing noise and providing shade from harmful ultraviolet radiamon, especially in playgrounds and picnic areas. They also help increase property values, as market studies show that home values are higher on tree-lined streets. Finally, they help reduce physiological stress, especially in highly urbantred areas.

Summer winds

During summer, winds especially at right can help cool the home for natural ventilation. However, if winds are hot and your home is airconditioned all summer, you may want to prevent summer winds from circulating near your home. To do this, plant bushes and shrubs next to your house to create dead air spaces that insulate your home. Plants must be at least 12 mches away from the wall of your home.

For a country like the Philippines that has a hot humid climate, find some way to channel summer breezes toward the home. Maximize summer shade with trees that still allow penetration of low-angle sun at the latter part of the year.

For new homes

When building a new home, consider its orientation. This means studying where your property is facing with regard to the points of the compast. Notice your lot's exposure to sun, wind and water Also consider the location of nearby structures, fences, water bodies, trees, concrete walkways and their possible climatic effect on your property. Buildings provide shade and windbreak. Fences block or divert windflow. Water bodies moderate temperature but

For existing homes

increase humidity

if your home already exists, evaluate its comfort and energy problems. Start with how solar heat passes through windows and the roof. The roof is a major reason people resort to using airconditioners, especially roofs that are not instuated and have no exhausts to flush out heat. Shading can greatly help reduce solar heat gain and cut air-conditioning costs. It is therefore important to know the size and location of the shading device. and the shadow it casts on the

Whether you have a new home or an existing one, planting a 6foot or 8-foot deciduous tree (one that sheds its leaves periodically) near your home will begin shading windows the first year. Depending on the species and the home, the tree will shade the roof in 5 to 10

If there is not enough space for trees, as in many urban homes, grow vines on a vertical or horizontal trells to shade the west and east windows and walls of buildings Window type air-conditioners that are shaded can increase its efficien cy by as much as 10 percent

Trees, shrubs and groundcover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the house This reduces heat bouncing off the ground and cools the air before it reaches your homes walls and windows. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a driveway or side-

Another way to cut down on energy use is by using certain species. of trees, bushes and grasses that require much tess water than others. By using these species, you can el minate the fuel, water and time consumption associated with igwn mowing and watering. This energy-raving technique is called xenscaping, which uses plants that OR ESSERVING OF FREE AS AND GROUND

THE TEMPERATURE pround the home is lowered by using trees, vegetation and ground covering plants. Large trees shade the ground protecting it from direct nunlight but allow wind flow underneath. Shrubs and ground covering plants retain moisture in the ground, preventing the ground from drying up and building up heat. Trees 2000 shade the walls and roof of a home,

water once established.

The energy saved by shading that trees provide depends largely on the tree density, its shape and location. Next comes the size of the

ANCH AHADO P DE ESUS A ASSOCIATE

structure, the sun's position relative to the structure and whether the tree keeps its seaves yes: round

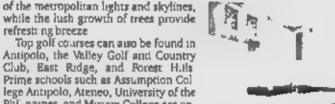
Finally, your investment in land scaping can help reduce energy bills only if you select the right kind of trees and shrubs. Trees and shrubs have very long life spanand can become more attractive with age. Keep in mind the prope placement and minimal mainte nance of plants to ensure that you reap the many benefits of energy efficiency through sandscaping

For comments or inquiries, e-mai amododejenus@zmail.com.

Hometowns amid the height of Antipolo City

THE COUNTRY'S TRUSTED PROPERTY developer and Antipolo City's biggest homebmider, CrownAsia develops two masterplanned, themed communities tocared in the heights of Antipolo City---WoodBerry and Maia Alta. Both enclaves belong to the company's Proud-Hometowns division, a roster of defined communities which homeowners can take pride in for generations to come and are specially created for the thousands of Filpino families who have and will select

CrownAsia as their home of choice. A far cry from the bustling concrete jungle, Antipolo City is one of the few piaces in Metro Manila which has main-Araneta Center and Eastwood. tained a rustic ambiance and temperate weather in behalf of in-dustrialization. The altitude The rushe ambiance of Italy's h storical and culture-rich of Antipolo presents a view cities combined with warmth and elegance are captured by CrownAsia and then adapted to the



lege Antipolo, Ateneo, University of the Phil.ppines, and Minam College are on ly a few minutes away. A 45-minute drive takes you to the business and commercial district of Makati, and 30minute drive via Marcos Marcos Highway or Ortigus Avenue brings residents close to the Orngas Center, Greenhills,



quaint community of Maia Alta Surrounded by a spectacular view and rolling terrain agreeing with Antipolo's tranquil ambiance, Maia Alta offers the idea, environment in which to raise

Driven by the success of the first hase, immediate development of the Hills, Gardens, Orchard and Groves followed. The Terraces is Mala Alta's latest phase and located at the highest point of Antipolo for an unobstructed view of Binangonan and Laguna de Buy.

Woodberry

Located at the peak of Antipolo City, Woodberry offers a picturesque hultop neighborhood surrounded by mango orchards. Cool air constantly breezes the surroundings while a sweeping view of greens can be enjoyed by every

Drawn from the architecture of homes found in Westchester and Larchmont in upstate New York, the Ameri-



can style homes at Woodberry feature # homey spirit, and low picket fences which provide privacy yet allow interaction with neighbors. The addition of lush landscaping and wide roads complete the picture-perfect community. WoodBerry sits right across Assumption College Antipolo

Other enclayes

Other flourishing CrownAsia enclaves belonging to the ProudHome towns division are Amici in Dasing Harl, Alabang: Citta Italia in Imus Residenza in Bacoor, Cavite; Ama fi in Dasmariñas, Cavite; and Portezza in Cabuyao, Laguna

Visit any of the hometowns and discover what proudly defines CrownAsia's commitment to fulfill the lifelong dreams of Pibpino families. Property previews may be arranged by cailing 889-2850, 889-3360 or 723-5013, or visit www.crownasia.com.ph on the

Poro Point dev't needs urgent review, BCDA says

THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR PORO Point in San Fernando, La Union, particalarly its seaport, must be thoroughly reviewed to maximize its potential as a world-class export facility and help spur economic development in Northern Luzon, according to the head of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority

BCDA president and CEO Narciso Abaya said the current stalemate between the government and the private operator of the Poro Point seaport has become a big hindrance to the country's economic take off. He said a swift resolution of the conflict has become urgent in the light of recent developments that make Poro Point a very strategic facility.

Potential income

Abaya cited recent reports from the Board of Investments saying that Taiwanese businessmen are keen on sourcing large volumes of gravel and sand from the Philippines to sustain Turwan's booming economy. The potential income for such export venture is estimated at no less than \$200 million annually, according to the

The BCDA chief, however, also noted that one Tuwanese businessman, Charles Chen, declared that the government must improve and expand the existing seaport at Poro Point to facilitate the export of gravel and sand to Taiwan since Poro Poinc is the country's northernmost major sea-

La Union officials said the province and other areas in Northern Lezon can supply Taiwan's gravel and sand requirements because of the abundance of the material in the region

At odds

The problem is that the current operator of the Poro Point seaport and the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) are at odds as to the impsementation of the development plan for the seaport," Abaya said. "In effect, the country is missing out on an excellent opportunity to turn an almost mexhaustible commodity, gravel and rand, into precious dollars."

Refusa, of Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), the private company that won the right to operate the seaport and some adjacent areas, to start development unless the government turns over all the areas covered under the sease agreement. The BHI contract was awarded during the time of former President Joseph Estrada.

Officials of PPMC cite one basic flaw in the development plan drawn up by BHI for the Poro Point seaport—the proposed areas for development are under lingation because of adverse claims by other parties, a fact that was known to BHI even before the signing of the agreement

"It has become a chicken and egg situation. The government cannot deliver the areas under lingation, and in turn BHI does not develop the seaport. The result? Our economy suffers, Abaya said, "This stalemate must be resolved soon."

Ayala Greenfield celebrates flowers, nature

of various shapes and sizes from ordinary humps of clay. With the aid of nothing more than his hands and a rotating disk, he expertly fashioned pots, bowls, juri and teacups, then set them aside to be col-ored and baked

"Pottery is considered by many to be the most natural art form, so products formed out of day are perfect for any natural setting," he said. "In this case, we can design clay pots to become bearers of var-**KINE Plants**

Meanwhile at the Ikebana booth, Serapion Metilia, proprietor and general manager of Mett's plant art, carefully demonstrated the basic styles of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

'A minimalist style that uses no more than three main plant elements to represent heaven, man and earth, lkebana is a well-studied plant art," he said. "It is a classic, disciplined approach to flower arrangement, perfect for people who prefer structured, minimalist themes in their homes and gardens."

Like Ikebana, growing bonsais also requires a high level of discipline from gardeners, according to John Dizon. At his well-attended seminar, the bonsai hobbyist explained that bonsai growing is a plant art for "those who like to

Said Dixon. "Bonsal growing is not just a matter of planting seeds, watering them, and then watching them grow You have to think about how you want them to grow, how you want them to look, and what style you want them to follow, then work on them accordingly."

One flower that's particularly sensitive to Ayala Greenfield's cool mountain air is the orchid a beautifu, bloom considered a garden staple by most green thumbs.

During his seminar on orchid care, Carlos Lazaro, owner of Valesoi Garden, taught interested gardeners the basics of how to nurture Vandas, Dendrobium and other varieties of orchids when the plants are set amid a sughtly modified environment.

Guests who wanted to learn about gar-

den landscaping and flower arrangement, on the other hand, sat before Florence Getalado, event stylist and owner of FBG Flowers and Scents. At her booth, participants arranged gerberas, angels, roses, chrysanthemums and other biossoms into beautiful bouquets, many of which they were allowed to take home.

"I think it's important to equip homeowners with the knowledge of basic landscaping and flower arrangement, especially if they live away from the city" Florence said.

The perfect setting for any garden, Ayala Greenfield (Tel. No. 728 7000) offers a haven for those who want to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Located in Calamba, Laguna, its residential lots come with a share in the Ayala Greenfield Gosf and Leisure Club, allowing nature lovers and golf enthusiasts to live the attimate fanta--playing in an 18-hole, all-weather, championship golf course located just a few steps away from home, amid an abundance of greens and a breathtak and mountain view.



A STYLISH Zon garden greets guests at Avala Greenfield Estate's open house.

Urban sets seminar on how to avoid foreclosure

TO KNOW AND LEARN MORE ABOUT Institute of Real Estate on July 26, 1.30 the financial techniques of avoiding, preventing and remedying foreclosure, present and would-be borrowers and lenders are invited to attend a course on "How to Avoid and Remedy Poreclosure" that will be conducted by Urban

to 5 p.m. at the Maximo Punction Room, second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati C. vy

Topics to be covered include processes an judicial and extrajudicial foreclosure; options available to senders and borrowers when default occurs; stages of foreclosure; preventive measures to avoid foreclosure, what to do when default is impending and when already in default, some common mistakes of borrowers when in default; redemption and its periods, what to do during the

redemption period, deficiency judgment; cases of viable real estate projects and financial techniques that can stop foreclosure and save the collateral,

For more details and inquiries, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928, cel. phone 0916-4269174



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By Charles E. Buban

ALATAGAN IN BATANGAS IS perhaps one of the best kept. secrets of some prominent fam lies who wanted to feel being back in the olden days of simplicity and serenity, away from the bustling city life.

Known for its white sand beaches, Calatagan has retained the old Spanish provincial charm and laid-back atmosphere-artr bures that have attracted Landeo Pacific Corp. to develop a 92bectare property in Barangay Sta. Ana. and turn it into the country's first tourism estate designed around a beach community and call it Playa Calatagan

"The decision to focus on building projects geared toward leisure and tourism came about a year ago primarily because we see it as a potential growth sector and key economic dover for the country that has been overlooked for quite some time," says Landto EVP Francis Cebados.

He is confident that Landco wull be successful considering that the company has proven used more han capable of venturing into this category based on its previous projects like the Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego, two flagsh p seaside developments located in Nasugbu, Balangas.

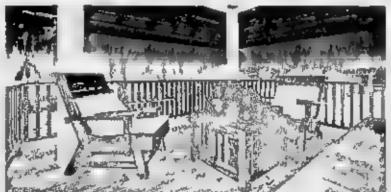
Beach club

Aside from its more than 500 meters of white sand beach front, another prime outdoor features of Playa Caratagan is the beach club that features at anique 800-square-meter river pool. which is surrounded by several pool cabañas as well as one- and two-level gar-

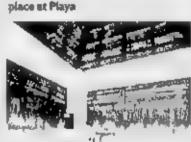
Landco SVP for leasure and tourism Patrick Villano intends to make Playa Calatagan Luzon's version of Boracay. The property is being developed to capture both local and foreign visitors who wanted to experience Boracay, a premier island resort located in Aklan province without the need to fly 34S. kilometers just to get there," he says.

Villano adds that future residents and guests of Plave Calatagan could look forward to bers, restaurants (fea-

ADEXHIBIT



SEYERAL cogon-roofed cabañas where guests could dine or relax are now in





LOCATED along both sides of the river pool are cabañas where swimmers could take refuge.

turing local cuisine), souvenir thops and shopping klosks.

Residential component

But while Plays Calategan is being groomed as a premier events and holiday destination some 62 hectares will be earmarked as residential component wherein over 900 lots with sizes between 250 and 500 sq m at P6,230 to P7,280 per sq m will be offered.

"Here, future residents would be able to enjoy masterplanned amendes such as the beach clubhouse, hilltop clubhouse, amphitheater park, central park and bamboo park and visage reception/administration building," Ceballos.

According to him, Playa Calatagan's residential component is designed to appeal to families who want to enjoy the place's a isposled beauty so Landco. decided o high ghi the rustic feet of the place as evidenced from the Asiantropical architecture that they have chosen as the project's overall theme

More similar projects

Villa to also mentions landeo's entry into the leisure and tourism sector will soon usher more innovative projects amua, ro Playa Color agen

"Unlike some a knocked countries with no direct access to the ocean, the Philipotnes is blessed in the sense that one is never too far from any coastline. or coastal resort. This accessibility, which is most ideal and convenient for many of us, has also prompted the influx of many visitors from other countries. With an increasing denta 3d, we at Landco are more than willing to provide new developments similar to Playa Caratagan," he says.

Landco Pacific Corp. (www.dandcopacific.com) is a multiproduct developer or high-quality reside that resorts, leisure farms, reside trial developments, memorial parks, shopping centers and centra, business districts

The company continues to provide superior value in its projects and is widely recognized as a benchmark for innovative and outstanding affestyle products that revolutionize the way we







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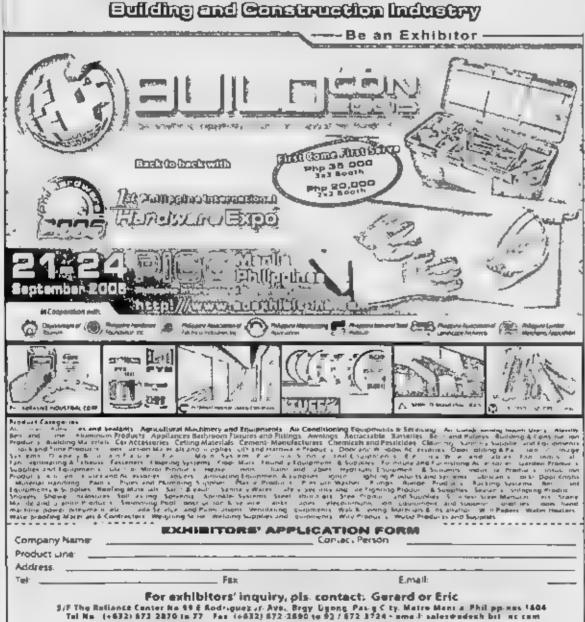


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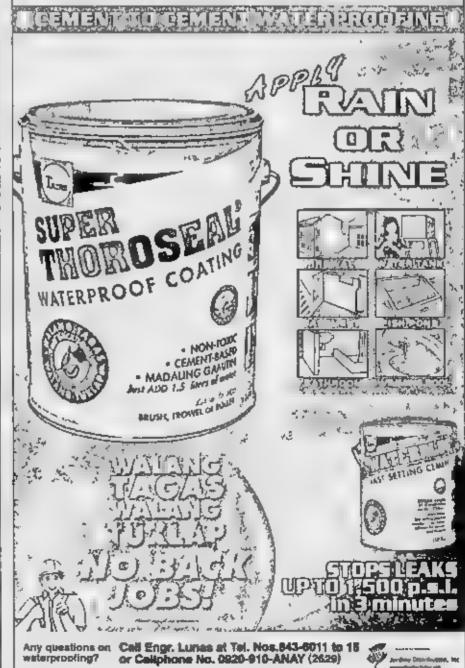
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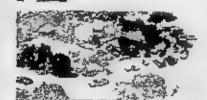
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ROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



A leaking house a financial drain, say feng shui experts

By Tessa R. Salazar

ANT SLEEP AT NIGHT lately because of the annoying sound from your dripping faucet or roof? Well, here's more reason to lose sleep over those leaks. Feng shut experts believe that leaking roofs, faucets and wealth draining from your hands

On the other hand, they stress that bringing water in represents bringing wealth in as well. So, all water features in the yard should flow toward the house, to bring money to the occupants' pockets.

Tampa-based feng shui consultant Nicole Noles said water symbolizes wealth. Anytime water leaves the house, through toilets, washing machines and the like, also symbolizes wealth "leaving" the household.

Bothersome leaks

Whether you believe in feng shus or not, it pays to do something about those bothersome leaks. Roberto Tseng Vicente, US-based traditional feng shail consultant, said house occupants just need to be practical-minded to realize the physical damages brought about by water leaks in the house, "Be sure to check and repair water leakages at home, such as those in the roof, toilet, kitchen, bathroom and the laundry

"Water faucets leaking, garden hoses lying around dripping water and leak-

ing tollet bowls all lose money because you have to pay the water that you do not use. That's how practical feng shuiis, it is based on life experience and not with the help of magic," says Vicente, who uses what he calls Q:P1

Noles, who offers feng shut consultations in southwest Florida, as well as Swedish, That and craniosacral massages, Redd and shamanic healing and tarot readings, urges that any leak discovered in the house should be fixed pipes may symbolize your 'nght away At the same time, however, she advises households to check their budgets to see where the financial

> "I generally find also that in a house with many leaks, the occupants are spendthrifts with credit cards and petty expenses, and do not keep track of them well. Keeping all receipts for a month can be a big eye opener," says Noles, who studied feng shui under James Moser in San Diego with the Feng Shui Warehouse in 2000.

> Vicente defines QiPi as an ancient practice of environmental planning that harmonizes nature and the environment to increase opportunities for success, vitality and prosperity.

> Noles tells homeowners to keep lids down for toilets and sinks to keep the money in, lifting the lid up or the drains open only when occupants are getting nd of waste.

Floods

Vicente, who is also an industrial and chemical engineering graduate, says city environmental planning is one of the ancient specialties of feng shul that can be implemented to any size city or

He adds that the consequence of a



city confronted by a flooding problem is a "paralyzed" constituency that is unable to be productive. And though the "bayanıhan" value of Filipinos surfaces during floods, money still "flows out" and financial opportunities are lost for those affected.

According to Vicente, here are other environmental observations affecting every individual:

Dirty rivers or canals can directly contribute to degradation of properties that stand beside them, especially if these rivers overflow during heavy rains. So, those who plan to reside in these properties may need to think

Vicente says house-hunters need to consider the natural condition of the locality, and ascertain how this will enhance and support the family's daily ac-

tivities, and even their business.

Nature's fury

But what if a storm or typhoon with a force that not even the most disciplined feng shui follower can avert is approaching your area? The most important issue there is safety," Vicente stresses.

We can evacuate local areas for specific storms, but we've got to address issues such as clean energy, podution and trash disposal now. Good feng shui addresses the regional environment as well as individual houses," Noles says.

She adds that feng shin, at its core, is the art of fiving in barmony with everything. Indeed, a house and all its occupares are always intertwined with the Earth and all its elements—the state of one can either be the cause or effect of

Ayala Greenfield celebrates flowers, nature

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES RECENTLY hosted an open house affair celebrating Nowers and nature as its theme. Coinciding with Laguna's much-awaited flower

festival, the whole-day event brought together lot owners and potential buyers in a colorfu., bloom filled venue, where guests were treated to a sumptu-

ous lunch and a senes of workshops on how to design, landscape and care for the perfect garden. A prime residential community that offers breathtaking views of Mt. Makiling, La-guna de Bay and the Tagaytag Ridge, Ayata

Greenfield Estates boasts of exclusive firstclass amenities, and an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. Ayala Greenfield is also blessed with

clear mountain weather. The warm sun and gentle breeze bathing its sloping hills are mendly to plants, allowing residents to grow a wide variety of blossoms all year round. The land, however, differs from what may be found in lower areas, and thus requires a slightly modified brand of care.

To help lot owners and aspuring gardeners adjust, Ayata Land invited experts to teach guests a thing or two about Ikebana, pottery, flower arrangement, orchid care and bonsar care.

As brokers conducted presentations with prospects interested in availing of their own space within the sprawling, nature-friendly areas of Ayala Greenfield Estates, others gravitated toward booths covered with multihued displays of flowers, pors and other garden accessories. The scent of flowers filled the room as guests eagerly istened to the advice of some of the country's foremost plant and portery expens.

At the portery booth, Jon Pettyjohn delighted the audience by forming containers

AYALA: B8



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By Pepe Dioloro

FEW DAYS AGO, WE PRESENTED twelve I Am Super! awards to individuals who rock their respective industries to the extreme. These awardees were Manny Paquiao, racers Michelle Burngarner, Tyson Sy, and Dado Peña, the Philippine Everest Team, filmmaker Raya Martin, designer Amina Aranaz, and design house Team Manila. Awards also went to phorographer Paolo Pineda, PETA advocate Isabel Roces, Super group RockEd Philippines, "Big Brother" director Lauren Dyogi, TV superhero. Richard. Gutierrez, and. dance group, the Al. Stars.

Now, boys and girls, lads and gals, dudes and—you get it—we want to know who you give your I Am Super! awards to. Yap, we're accepting nominations to this year's I Am Super! Awards. (Hey, Super generation, this is your awards as much as it is ours.)

In a bit, we'll tell you how to send in your noin's. But first, here's a primer

Who can I nominate?

"I Am Super!" awardees come from different backgrounds and fields. We don't believe in putting them in boxes.

Nominate any Filipino who's made a change in his or her field. Nominate any Filipino who's changed your life lately. Nomi

nate any Pilipino you think rocks the world.

When can I nominate?

Since there are no restrictions on who your nominees are, we know it's a daunting task just to think of people.

So we're giving you a head start. The normnation dive will formally open widim the next few days. Keep reading Super for updates.

How can I nominate?

It's simple. Memorize this line: "
is Super because he/she rocks the world of
!", and send it to us. For example
"Spongebob Squarepants is Super because
he rocks the world of square pants:"

We're opening text and web channels.

We'll make it really easy for you to get your nom's in. (If you've got ideas already though, you can start sending your nominations to superawards@gmail.com.)

What happens next?

After we get your nominations, we will tally them and award the top Superis according to you.* We will present these awards at the annual Super Bazaar, which is set for the end of August.

After that, world peace

So start thinking over your nominations!

Do it in between classes, over dinner, in the bathroom, and before you sleep. Do it baby, do it, down on the beach. Do it baby, do it, down on the street.

Cheens to the Super generation!
Remember, you can start sending your nominations to superawards@gmail.com

Are you ready to party to the extreme?

EW ASTRING-O-SOL ICE Extreme is offerning 100,000 each to five hicky student organization from vanous schools to mount an "extreme" party event either inside or outside the school.

Dubbed as the "Extreme Party Chalenge," the competition is open to all bonafide conlege/university organizations for the school year 2006-2007. The winning student organization gets 200,000.

To join, the student organizations must submit their profile, history and past projects, officers and contact numbers, membership profile, financial statement and concept paper of proposed "extreme" event for NEW Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme. The concept paper should contain overall party concept, program and time-

isting a sol

All entries and supporting documents
must be submutted to
Stingray Advertising
at Room 426, Regina
Building, Escolta,
Manila They can also
be emailed to
aostoextreme@yahoo.com.ph. Deadine for submission of
entries is on July 25, 5p.m.

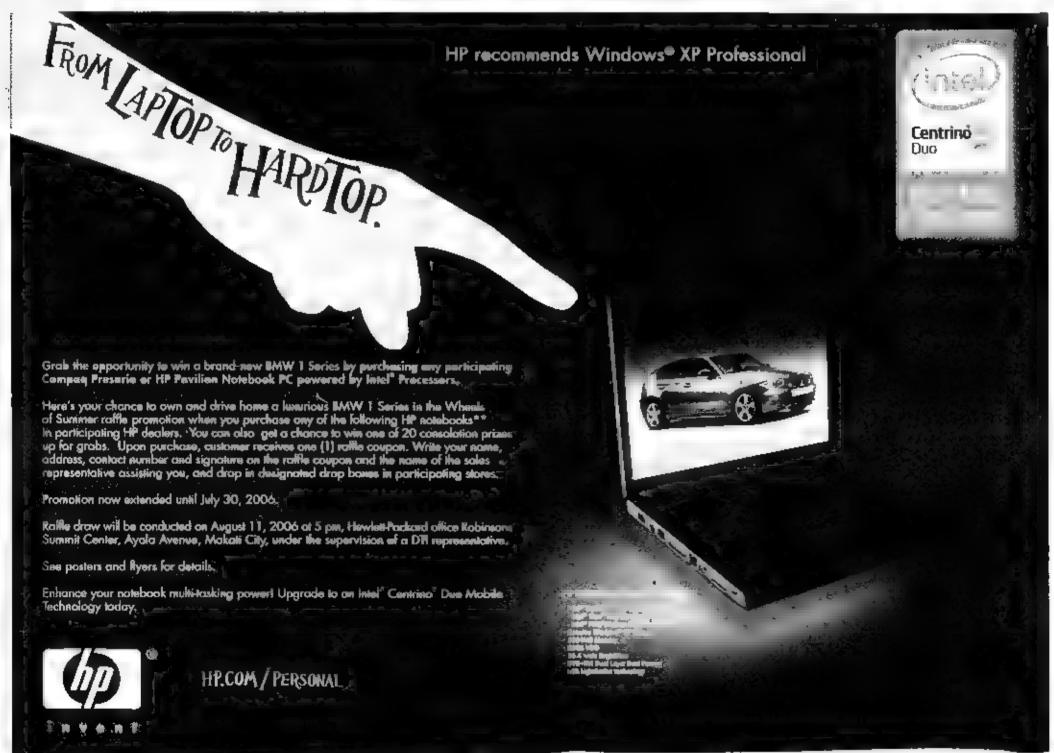
lines

The proposed event must center overall creative handle "extreme" which is defined as breakthrough, revolutionary, cut-through and excellent. It should also creatively promote NEW Astring-O-Soi Ice Extreme and its benefit of "fighting morning breath."

New Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme is the latest revolutionary mouthwash from GlaxoSmithKline. It has a critically-proven time release antibacterial compound (chlorhexid.ne) that helps fight morning breath by effectively working throughout the night

Available in 60ml, 120ml, 250ml and 360ml bordes, NEW Astring-O-Sol Ire Extreme comes in a cool lemon Line flavor for a total blast of freshness in the mouth.





"Participating RP nelabories Company Pressrio M22354P | M22234P / M22544P / M22744P / V22774P / V23754P / V25754P /

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Pyram minimini until Joy 20, 7006 (contract py DT-Act).

Per Col Permit Au. 1784, Sprins of 2006.

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Tauttus your feedback: inquirer sup hams/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Siyle . Urban living .

dun cuiture . Chierlainment . l'ecreation



They're queer, they're here, we

By Parts Paster

THOM FILICIA AND I WERE sitting on the couch talking. Suddenly, Carson Kressley and Ted Alien barged in.
"Is he boring you to death?" Ted asked.
"We've here to save you!" Carson added.

Before I realized what was happening, Kyan Douglas was in the room too. He leaned and said, 'Don't believe anything he on making up all these things in his

For a minute, it looked like a scene from a Quant Eye for the Straight Guy" apinode. But more importantly. I am not a straight guy!

allenged and culture-leangry three years now. "We're not really chang making them over, we're bringing out the in in them. We sort of do that to ourselves all the time," said Carson, who says he head Kyan's advice on getting a haircut.

The show recently celebrated its 100th isode ("Only 7,947,000 guys to go!" Casson d.) and according to the Pub Five, vi

P99

Half Max's Fried Chicken™!*

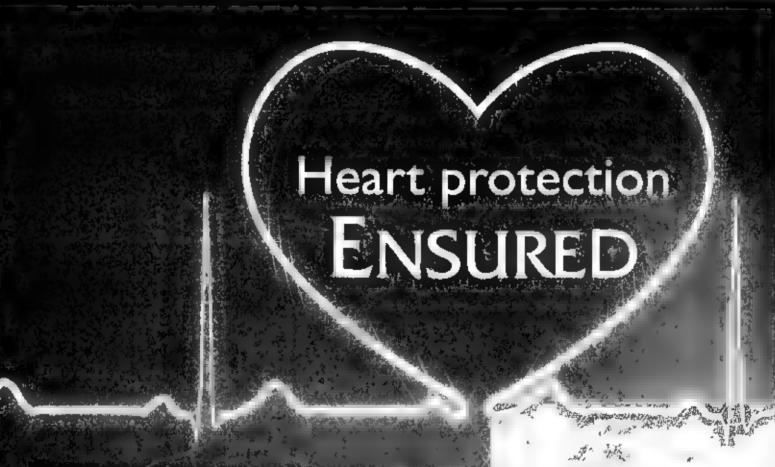
Available from 6:00pm onwards.





Sasarap talaga ang dinner moi Same Max's Fried Chicken*, now made more affordable. At Max-lalong masarap kapag may kasamang Pepsi-Max for just P10,001 Also available for delivery call 7-9000.





Recommended by a out of 10 doctors and meets standards o American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education P



Every part of your avoided depends on your hears. it is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and berres.

Although your injury is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits which weaken your body and hamper appared

Ensure helps light off the hermful effects of free radicals caused by these unhealthy habits, its unique Heart Defense System creates a

phield are used your hairty, and assembly our frame an avect. Combined with graph distance and regular elements. Seeks and the seeks are been seeks as the seeks are been been as a seek as the seeks are been been as a seek as the seeks are seeks are seeks as the seeks are seeks as the seeks are seeks as the seeks are seeks are seeks as the seeks are seeks as the seeks are seeks are seeks as the seeks are seeks are seeks are seeks as works.

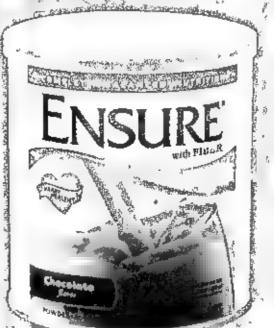
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ndors in Palates, Austria Gair



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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0799 4, 2006

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMENIO

I ALWAYS BET A LITTLE I KNOW SAD AND NOSTALGK LOCKING WHAT AT THESE OLD PHOTOS FROM You WHEN THE KIDS WEFE LITTLE. MEANL 9











e-mail feedback at artist@legislescenes.als

BY JESS ABRERA KASI WALANC ELECTION! > WALA RAU

BABY BLUES SAMPE IT THAT'S THE KIDS' NEW BATH STUFF SMELLS WEIRD IN MESE

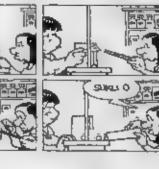


WE STILL

WITH THE

BY JERRY SCOTT SO WHEN THEMPE CLEAN THEY SMELL LINE A FRUET SALAD, AND WHEN THEN PE DIRTY THEY SHELL LIKE A DIET SALAD STIME HENCE PLEASE

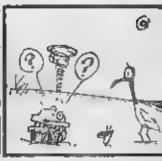
PUGAD BABOY COTRIMAZOLE , GAMOT SA HADHAD AT ALIPUNGA





MUTTS







LOVEKNOTS MERALITE, ALAM MOBA NA SI SISTER BONN AY

PUPUNTA SA MALA CARANGE

BAKTT



ATOMO AND WEBOY

I FEEL REJUVENATED

AS IF THE COSWERS IN

MY HEAD HAVE BEEN

Well, I Guess My GARBAGE CAN OF MENTAL CLUTTER







BY LYRA GARCELLANO

mMisse mi

BY STEVEN PARALINAS

RIN ANG APAT NA TAONG PAGLALAKBAY NI HANS PARA HANAPIN AND HERMITANYONG MAY HAWAK SA KASAGUTAN MEANING" NG BUHAY, KASO NGA LANG **BIGLA ITONG** INATAKE SA PUSQ

KIKO MACHINE

CLEARED



POKPOK!

September 19 Property and the





MIKROKOSMOS

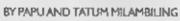






BY JOMIKE TEJIDO BUNSOY NAPANSIN MO BA YUNG RESEARCH PAPER KO? PINATONG KO LANG BANDA RITO

TULDOK



GOLD DIGGER!!!









DAILY CROSSWORD

Refused to yield 9 Horse hotel? 15 Possible to dodge 16 Sci-P writer Ellisar combustible

ACROSS

17 Coal mine's gas 18 Familiarize with a new setting 19 __ Ude, Russia 20 Disinclination 22 Religious factions 24 Puts in order 225 Notsy clamor 26 Giving the

pnce-over -28 Cal's wink 129 Depression 130 Car for hire -31 Goof up -32 Advance gradually 33 Shorsky of helicopters 35 Extinct New

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52 The nays 53 Focal points 756 Eivis hit of 1958 57 Fine thread 58 Pest

60 Past, present and future hat Stocksbill 162 Burn chasers? 63 Constructors

DOWN Spurner Whammy look 70 37 60 By Matthew Higgina 7/22/06 Concord, NH

Friday's Puzzie Solved P D D S MISNEC AIOL NGALONG CK PIETNIAMFS TOAT MOEN SPTA A A A CTA M F R ST WOM A B E A S E N E D C E S SP M E S S Y ALINE ELLEN.

36 On the main 37 Bears witness (to) 38 Pair of thyrned

lines 39 Cleantiness 41 Throat soother 43 Shylock's

customer

44 Sustain once again 45 Ali __ gol 50 Pry bar

55 Kind's address pouch

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY. You work for success. You want it. Your dynamic sature and courageous drive generally bring you what you want however, your career has valleys and peaks, as you strive for a long of pertection in something. Sometimes your energy is strong, and yet ar other times, you hide Exclude, Iresh, new beginnings awart you this year and evence Stamp, actor; David Spade, actor; Edward Hopper,



ARIES (March 21 by April 19). Start gear mg up for a ten month alteast in the next soc

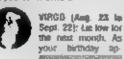
opportunities will come your way You might also be more rayolved

TAURUS (April 20 to Mary 20): Home, family and real estate is-SUES ESSUME CHESISE Importance in your tile is the next month Discussions with parents and family members

SEMINU (May 21 to June 20): Fasten your seat belts. The tempo of your days is about in accelerate. Short trips, shooping, conversations with siblings and running ground

doing errands latep you hopping! CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might cash-flow issues for the next hour weeks You're confemplating a major por chase; plus you're watching your

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's your beth-day dear i.e. Use the next lour weeks to recharge your energy for the rest of the year. It's perfectly all right to put yourself first now.



Sept. 22): Lie low for the next month, As your birthday aphow you want your next year to be LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A very pop-

ular month ahead awaits you now Ac-cept all invitations Enjoy parties and social occastore. This is a good time to

SCORP10 (Oct. 23 to Now 21): The Sun is now at high moon at your chart, acting like a spoti-ght on you. ers and authority liquies easily no-tice you. (They also respect you.)

SAGGETARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You would love to blow ROWN HOW H YOU could. You want a change of scenery You're also keen to learn now. (The next few weeks are a good time to sign up for a course.)

to Jan. 19); Clarity matters connected with Hinances or resources that are held jointly with others. (if you want to raise money or borrow cash, the next few weeks are a good time to

Feli. 18): You mugit ŹĠ cause the Sun is as fur away from your sign as it gets all year ti's going to stay there for the next four weeks

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Act on your desire to get betlitr organized at home and serious seasons are ends. De-chatter wherever possi-

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Difficulty Level **

Answer to previous puzzle

8 1 7 9 2 6 4 3 5 6 3 5 7 4 8 1 9 2 4 9 2 5 1 3 7 6 8 7 2 3 4 9 1 5,8 6 5 4 6 8 2 9 7 3 9 8 6 3 7 5 2 4 1 2 6 9 1 3 4 8 5 7 3 7 1 8 5 9 6 2 4 5 4 8 2 6 7 3 1 9

Difficulty Level # # # #

HOW TO HAT PO TORKE

Fili the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at

www.sudoku.com



MCCANN Creative Council Mike Langton, Pillin Th Eric Einhorn, Ng Tian It, Jeremy Perret, Pressoon Joshi













■ HE UNQUESTIONED INDUStry leader for 19 years and running. Pive-time winner in the 8-year history of the Agency of the Year Awards as sponsored by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4A's). The big business-builder han-

MCCANN Account Manager Coline Lap

ya, len Beltran, Mitch So, Piolo Pascual

dling over 50 leader brands.

er. Che Sa

This is how they party.

At Fiamma, Advertising's young guns pulled all stops to welcome Mc-Cann World group. McCann folles from here and abroad raised their glasses as they entered another era of creamy demand." Tim kap

Chinesal

HE TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN more perfect. While the "Phaippine Idol" aspirants are busy prepping their voca chords in nervous anticipation of the show's much-awa ted launch next Sunday. two mega-successful Filipmo-American musimans will be making a quick stopover in Manila next week for their own respective con-

Nicole Scherzinger of the Pussycat Dolls and Apr. de.ap (aka Alian Pineda) of The Black Eyed Peas may have grown up far from our sunny attie archipelago, but their inherent musical talent speaks volumes of their Fiipino her tage

Naturally were hardwired to be proud when a Pincy performer shines in the global stage, particularly in the world of music. So for two consecutive nights, you can definitely expect swarms of fans to full the Araneta Colseum to the rafters for the "Black Eyed Peas: Monkey Business World Tour" on Thursday (July 27 8 p.m.) and the "Pussycat Dolls, Live in Man at on Friday (July 28, 8:30 p.m.) For tickets, call 91 1-5555

Other Supert 24/7 events:

July 22, Saturday

Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change at Onstage Greenbert, Tampisaw w/ Urbandub, Akafeiias. & Bioomfields at Ateneo de Manila ISO Parking Lot. Jrban Groove

R&B Night at Citrus Bringin Back the Bounce w/ Du Maria Garcia at Mat Saisa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café: House Groovin at Mezze: Quench at Quisine: Sieepless w/ DJ Martin Pulgar at Empassy Club; Campusition Night at Mag:net Cafe; Pump Saturdays at Jul's, Du Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine DJ Bam de) valle et Government, Soulistic w/ DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur Desi Nights at Bollywood:

July 23, Sunday

Cinema ava Film Festival Awards Night at CCP: Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental). Champagne Brunch at Soiral (Hotel Phil-Plaza), Through the Palette's Eye exhibit at LP Vargas Museum Architecture + Ecology exhibit at Goethe-Institut Manifa

July 24, Monday

Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse, I Don't Like Mondays! w/ Du Ro at Gwenos Makati: Silk & Steel at Merk's, Teresa Avija at The Myorr Eastwind Jazz Trip at Captain's Ban Follies de Mwah at Cr., b Mwah

July 25, Tuesday

Culsine Royale w/ Manoiel Dario at Embassy Cuisine: Panic w/ D_u Alessandra Tinio at Zen Sparkle at Absinth Kickback Tues-



days at Manila DJ Club, Guarana at Café Hayana Greenbeit, Sith at Tavern Greenbeit 3: Acoustic Night at Temple, Sitar Night at Bollywood

July 26, Wednesday

Weekend Wednesdays w/ OJ Boyel Almazan at Strumm's, Smooth Wednesdays w/ OJ Steve Mills at Absurth; Discotech w/ DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cursine; Funksoutjah et Manifa OJ Club: Bloomfields at Eastwood Fuente Circle; Birthday Bash at Citrus, DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gweilos Makati, DJ Brit at Government, Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Way Back Wednesdays al Bed; Jazz Night at Magmet Café, Rockin Revival at Conway's Bar

July 27, Thursday

Black Eved Peas at Araneta Coliseum, Coup w/ Manolet Dario at Flamma; OperaNow II at CCP Reggae Night at 6Underground; BBC's Sweet Suite Soul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab GottaHaveHouse at Capone's , Nuvo Soul w/ DJ

Elian at Nuvor Liquor Spill at Citrus; SP(T at Manthet Café: Giudunge at Mezze

Bloomfields at Acruba Latina Thursdays at Prince of Jaipur, Fluxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinfty, Supalistar Du Thursdaze at Bedf DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

July 28, Friday

Pussycat Dolls at Araneta Collseum Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; The Blue Room w/ OJs JP Sacaben & Nix Pernia at Azzumo Linden Suites. Got House! A! Mezze, Tribe-ulence Fridays at Absinth, Style Fridays w/ Steve Mills at Citrus, DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; Disco-Mania at MDC Greenhills. HouseBeats at Mati-

Bloomfields at Metrowalk, MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine w/ D., Marre Garcia al Embassy Guisine: Happy Yummy w/ DJ Brit at Government, Jive Fridays at Temple, The Jerks at 70s Bistro. Gogo Endays at Bed: Route 70 & Dawn at Merk's, DJs Scratchmark at Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur Mitch Vaides at Captain's Bar; Jay C. & USO at Streetscape Shangir-La Plaza

Schedules may change without prior notice For more information and amplete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7 com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7 com and mag24_ 7@yahoo.com.

WORKINGWOW and present

"Ilaw ng Tahanan Series"

Working Mom Magazine's Enlightened Home Management Guide.

> Day 1: Parenting: "Training the yaya to be your second self"

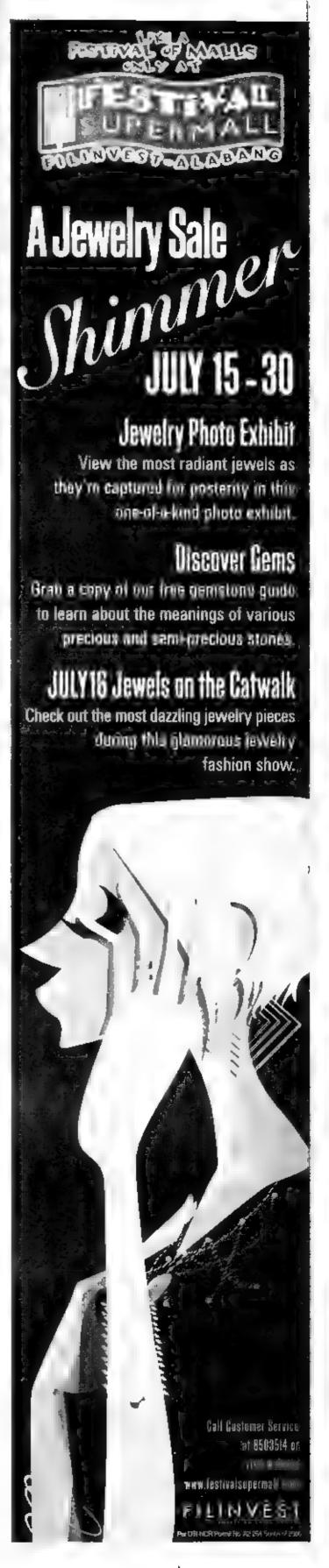
Speaker: Maribel Dionisio (Parenting Consultant) Date: July 29, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 12 60 noon Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, Quezon City

Day 2: FOOD FOR LIFE: Working Mom's guide to food and diet at home

Speaker: Food Editor In Chief Norma Chikiamco Date: August 26, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, Quezon City

Day 3: Get Organized! De-clutter your home now! Date: September 30, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, Quezon City

This seminar is for free but pre-registration is a must For details please contact Tin Tuazon at 415.27.62 E-mail: Kristine_tuazon@abs.pinoycentral.com





They're queer, they're here, we can get used to it

filmed in Veyas, fan maaning lots of wed-dings and fan maaning a Fresisy Friday-like episode where they all tracked places. Carson, who had in play Thors in that episode build, "I painted a straight gay's room pink and he liked it."

room pink and he liked to.
Invited by the Ayala Malis and Beach
to the country on they can share their
knowledge about Rishion, grouning, food, culture and know with Filipina. farm Thom. Gerson, Ted, Kyan and Minute led us hold three meet and great orn at different Apala Malle during

Real chemistry

Earlier in the afternoon, the five brandished their wit and candor, making members of the media laugh during the press conference of the Makaii Shangri-La Hotel. They apoke Tagalog, poked first at one another and had the room busing with energy it felt more like a comedy show there a prom sonference. When, asked if they thought gage, like blonder, have more fun. Carson replied, him

Ted and, "She meant real blondes."

Carson records, "Old people are but may." That the tree at his blod, She's ethmaking the medience liming away

to in abolism that even difference, the Pub Five have tend the mistry "(the re all sti different, we're vary different but we put stong to Vani." Typic souls.

As the affect throled of their weigh URLs, Cerson soid, "My website is Iwan-tahotili pinokus pandiner," Garson im E the only one who seems is beimpressed, with Pinoy men. When toked if they ipino guys, Ted inid, "Sure. What can ...

fall in love with gay mon? Carson had the

with a very high limit."

List pamarkable that Welnion come uplo us and profess their look. It's life, you
le hour his painted at the slow right?

neid Ryon. Di the Hou, mily Chaffer and lef ore sin-ple. "Ped's been in a relationaris) for most

"Ind sold, "I shink the best celebrities the three with the not her couldness in

044

Himan Cowell Kynn will be working hard at Diyea's spokespellion. (You can visit as Donal's spokesperson. (You can visit nown advocacies and causes. The great wave lovestones and causes are greater than a cause people will like the following facilities of the cause people will like the following facilities of the cause people will like they don't own, it will be thereint by a man-jur Assarings results but I can't tail you, who just you worry" he added. Acide from their

Aside from their own projects, Thom, Guy" on ETC, Mondays at 9 pers

Cataon, Tied Kyan and Jal all have their

nen," said <u>Carson.</u> Kyun said, "We don't do a let of overtby political things to pur show but I think the chance to be openly gay and source edevision is already semething. I Carnen will be seen as a commentation in think that is probably a universal thing whether you're Filipino or not, when "justification and powife not sure of when you are, would nothing out there for anyone like you. I hope people get that from our show—that we're people who are gay, are sul, who are being themselves. I think that's thereal arruggle for may person, so identify who you are and

Well own will couch the Pub Pive ionay at

Sidebar explosion

What do you do when you interview walking quotes? You make sidebars—lets of them

Trend report

Pashion. Stick to the classics, according to Carson. "I don't love people who are super trendy because I believe in building your wardrobe on great classics and then playing with accessories. In general, for men and women, a return to tailored classics, clothes that fit and more subtle palettes."

Grooming. The short haircus is back, Kyan said. What else is hot? "Men using skin care, men taking care of themselves."

Food and wine. It makes Ted happy that people are now more interested in learning how to pair food with wine. People are now having winetasting parties at home. (They're realizing) wine isn't something that's just about being pretentious and stuffy, it's not just for wealthy people. That's exciting for me."

Clip and save: tips from the Eats rive

"Listen to the voices in your head. Your wardrobe and your home or anything-it's really about expressing yourself. There's no one else like you. Have fun with that."-Carson Kressley

The one thing I promote on our show or even in my private practice is keeping it personal. Design isn't about just following a formula, it's really about creating an environment that represents yourself or the people who live in that home." - Thom Filicia

"Asian skin is pretty damn great." Keep it clean and keep it moisturized. But all of us, whether you're Asian or African or Caucasian, should remember to use sunscreen-SPF15 or better."-Kyan Douglas

With the state of

Carson says: "I think guys are really lucky because for a guy to have a great wardrobe, it doesn't take a whole lot. A great suit, great dress shirts, a great pair of jeans, a great Tshirt, an amazing watch because that's the only jewelry a man really wears, great shoes-black and brown, a couple of beits and you're done. How easy is that?"

Luxurious indulgences and cheap thrills

Thom. 'If you ask my accountant, ! thank he will tell you that I don't have a cheap thrill. Okay, I guess chocolates are my cheap thrill. But the chocolates I like aren't cheap. My favorite luxury is free time. As we get older, it's harder and harder and harder to find free time.

Carson: "I was gonna say my horse Because I have a horse and I love him to death and it's not easy to keep a horse in New York City. My cheap thrill? A good mani-pedi, Havaianas flip flops from Brazil and a deep-VT-shirt

Jai: 'A really really great amazing pair of Jeans. If you find Jeans that you love, buy four."

Ted: "I got myself this machine that makes you coffee—all you have to do is press a button *

"Coffee Kyan: and cream-that's my expensive and cheap thrill."

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Shop a minimum of \$2,500 single receipt purchase and get a chance to win an instant prize on the same shopping day, and an entertainment showcase in the grand raffle draw on August 5, 2006.



sometimes, I get so turned on by a clean apartment. And wearing the outfit that makes you feel the most confident is going to make you exide sexiness. Because confidence is sexy. And if it makes you feel good, you're gonna look good. And point B to my tip—because I can't just say one thing—is you have to smell good."

Jai: "Clean your apartment."

Ted: "You smell good by the way." Carson. "Don't I smell good? Smell

Thom: "Being confident is a great thing for every day, not just when you want to be romantic."

Nyan: "It's taking extra steps whether it's lighting candles or preparing a meal you wouldn't otherwise prepare."

Carson: "Surprises are sery."

SUPER! got the chance to meet Chris Martin

and discovered the sensitive side to this artist.

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph acic inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

pop culture . entertainment . recreation

SUPER! EXCLUSIVE ON COLDPLAY IN SINGAPORE

Better than the Fab Four

E WANT TO TRY TO BE like the Beatles and make something really wonderful, amazing and different. In fact, we want to be better than them."

In the eight years that Coldplay has been in the music industry, their dreams have indeed come true, breaking new ground for rock muisc and selling 30 million records along the

The first time I encountered Coldplay was at the MTV European Awards in Barcelona a few years back. I was at the hotel gym doing my cardio when my eyes caught a glimpse of this music video played in reverse. Maybe I was the last one to have seen it, but I later learned that the video that piqued my interest was "The Scientist," their first big hit. From harmless Japanese tourist that he gamefully



then on, the name Coldplay became a main-

stay on my playlist. That night, as I perched on the red carpet for the after-party, an unassuming young man came out of the a limo. Himmm, this guy looks like the dude in that cool video," I thought to myself. I mok a closer look when we walked beside each other. "Mr. Coldplay! Mr. Coldplay! Can I have a picture with you, Mr. Coldplay?" I must have looked like a

obliged, albeit a bit puzzled (I guess he wasn't used to the attention yet at that time) but he came across as a down to earth and introvert-

On MTV Centerstage

Fast forward to this year and I am at the Sentosa Hotel, where the band was billeted for their Singapore stint at the Singapore Indoor Stadium as part of their MTV Centerstage performances. I must admit that despite meeting him in person before, I am not really familiar with the songs of the band. Not until the concert did I realize that this was the group who dished out the song "Yellow."

At the outdoor area of the hotel with the view of the sea, Chris Martin (lead singer), Will Champion (drummer), Jon Buckland

renewal of membership

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CORY! CORY! The Coldplay fans screamed when they sang "Yellow."



(guitarist) and Guy Berryman (bassist) walked towards the press area unrecognized by guests. I looked at Chris, who had a quirky grin painted on his face all through out and screamed, "Mr. Gwyneth! Mr. Gwyneth! Can I have a picture with you, Mr Gwyneth?" And he gamely punched my face.

Of course I am kidding. I overheard from some Asian media that he prefers not to talk about G spottings and would rather focus on his music and his world view. He allegedly hit some rude member of the paparazzi for taking snapshot of him in a London cab. Oh

"All of us are excited to play music to people," Will said as they received the EMI regional platinum awards for outstanding sales for their album. Chris received the award and pretended to throw it out the veranda of the hotel. How very rock star.

For a good cause

barefoot with a childlike expression on his face, wearing black pullovers and cargo pants, leather bracelets on his left wrist. His fingers had a red and blue rubber tape worn as rings. I asked him later about it and he said it didn't mean any-

"Didn't mean anything" is not what you'd expect from this band, whose fame is strongly identified with their causes like their advocacy on free trade (freedom for all countries to trade and the fight against poverty), which prompted me to ask that question on the meaning of their choice of accessory. That, aside from their Ray Ban rock star aviators.

"We made a decision to use our fame for a good cause rather than just to make money." Will told me speaking on behalf of the band. We can use our fame to sell frizzy drinks but we'd rather sell a cause."

They said they would rather score music for films, because they feel it is more exciting

from one form of art to help express another form." They would rather do this than tackle commercial endorsements. Not bad for a band that was formed in 1996 while studying history in University College in London.

The new Coldplay sound

Will, their drummer is on a conscious effortto find the new Coldplay sound. A Coldplay fanatic from Kuala Lumpur told me that after-Chris submits a song for their album, he would seek Will's approval, and if Will doesn't

like the sound, it doesn't make the cut. How does Chris feel about the whole media frenzy about his family? "I understand asects of it, and I totally know what I got into, but I would rather concentrate my efforts in becoming musically brilliant," he looks up, searching for words. "Because I don't think we've gotten there yet," be told Clara Chow of The Straits Times Singapore.

"We want to make a new sound. We've brought our sound to its logical conclusion."

The rest of the band does not mind the extake one part away it won't be the same-no one is more important than the other." They all nod in agreement.

Just like the Beatles

On the band's planned new direction, they realize that they "have to aim to be the best." So they look up to the Beatles for inspiration. "We want to leave a legacy that is similar to the Beatles, with songs for everyone. We think every Beatles song is incredible."

In Will's opinion, Chris has written songs that mean so much to people as they did back then (Lennon, McCartney), but they want to steer it in a way that is "sonically new, with great melody and it will sound like a Coldplay song only different," Will winks as he imagines the new Coldplay.

On their global concert tour, when their songs are appreciated even with non-English speaking audiences, they feel equally elated. "It makes you feel justified to work hard-it's like payday when someone tells us they don't



HOTPLAY, COLDPLAY. Me and Mr. Gwyneth

understand English but they love our mu-

Poignant, poetic and bittersweet

For their concert, I walked into the Singapore Indoor Stadium without any expectations. I left the concert hall feeling quite vulnerable. Poignant, poetic and sweet-the words of their songs echo the wans and woes of this generation that

seeks to love and be loved. Even with high tech giant video projectors that complete the show's full sensory experience (with giant yellow balloons floating around the audience when the band sang "Yellow"), one could feel the tormented soul that is Chris Martin, as he soulfully sang about love and pain, joy and SOITOW.

He had the stage to himself, and he made sure he gobbled it all. He was possessed. He was a mad man.

One minute he's pounding on the piano keys and another time he's flying onstage as if he was sprinkled with some form of pixie dust. It came to an intense surreal point where it seemed like he was passionately making love to his piano, thrusting his body to the beat while the audience cheered him on to climax. And then en-

Three Pinoy Idols at Eastwood City on July 26

THIS YEAR'S AMERICAN IDOL finalist Jose "Sway" Penala along with Canadian Idol 2003 finalist Mikey Bustos and RnB Star, songwriter and producer Honore, will perform live in a one night free concert at the Eastwood City Central Plaza on July 26, 2006 at 7 p.m. These three artist hold a distinction of all having Filipino blood running in their veins, with Jose Penala and Mikey Bustos being pure Filipinos.

Jose "Sway" Penala, as you may know was the only Filipino to make it to the top 24 of this year's American Idol. His most notable performance was that of his rendition of Earth, Wind and Fire's "Reasons," where he got a

Mikey Bustos made it to the top 10 finalist of the Candian Idol

That same year he recorded two songs for the Canadian Idol Compilation, which sold excess GOLD on the Soundscan Billboard charts on the second day of release and ranked top five in the best selling Canadian album of all time in its debut week. Mikey broke all barriers being the first Filipino-Canadian singer in Canadian Music History to ever sing a feature track on a gold selling Canadian record.

Honore who is of Creole and Filipino descent, broke into the scene in 2003 with his first sin-

positive ovation from 2 of the 3 gle "Wonderful" prduced by judges. Spontaneuos, Since then, he has been a formidable force in the music industry, collaborating with Director, Bobby Torres to form the label Banan Gravy Recording.

The 3 Pinoy Superstars are in town to perform with the Pussycar Dolls for their first ever concert in the Philippines this coming July 28, 2006 at the Araneta Coliseum. Nicole Scherzinger, the lead singer of Pussycat Dolls, incidently is also of Filipino decent, making this concert truly an all out Pinoy invasion.

The Three Pinoy Idols at Eastwood City is brought to you by Magic 89.9, No Curfew and Storm Warch London.



HONORE



(OSE "Sway" Penala



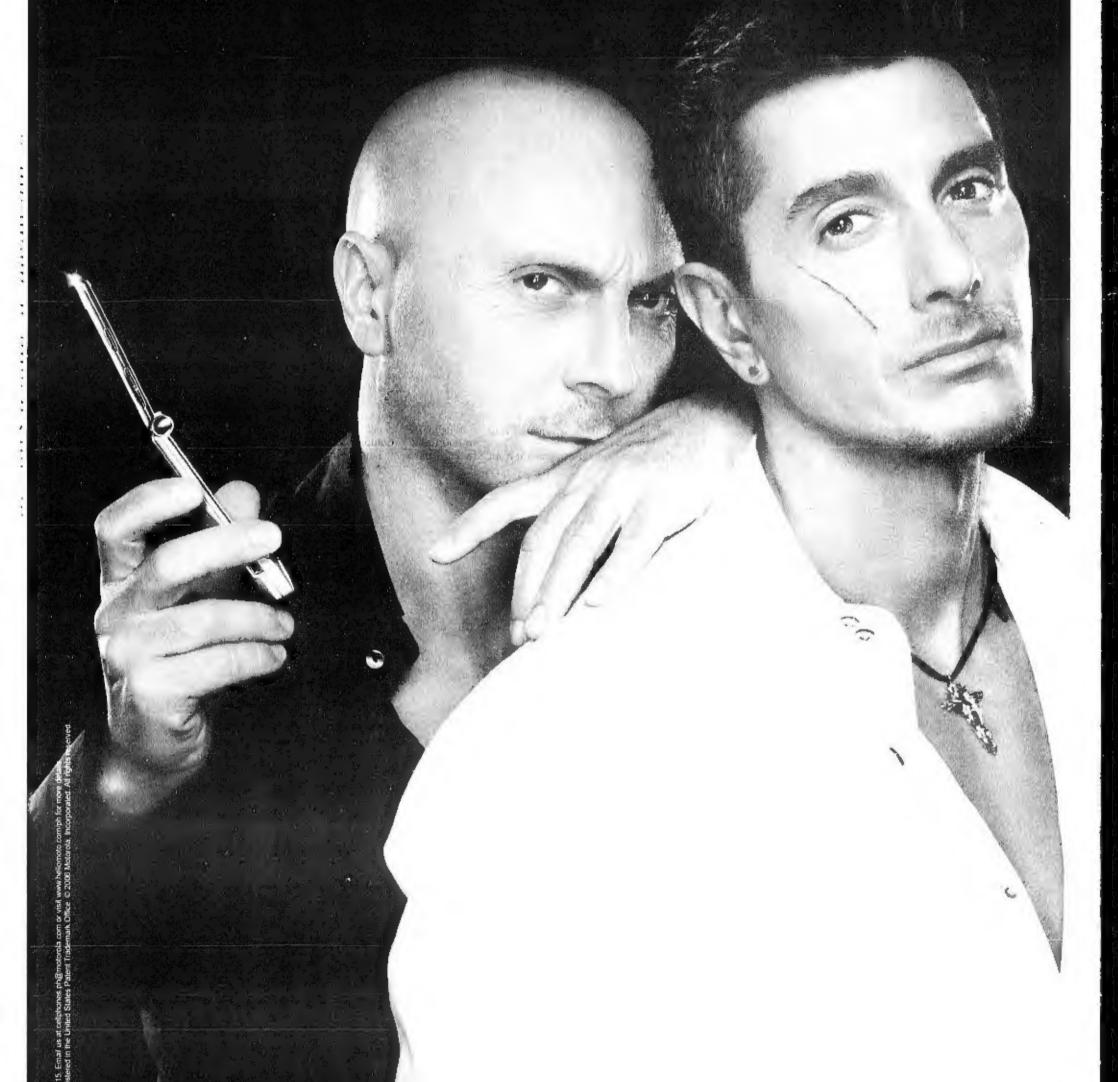
MIKEY Bustos



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dtime story to big mo

Shyamalan captivated audi-ences with his internationally acclaimed thriller The Sixth Sense, a multilayered ghost story powered by equal parts suspense and emotion. His succession of films that followed, Unbreakable, Signs and The Village, has established Shyamalan as a prolific story-

teller with vision and purpose. His newest film, Lady in the Water, began as an impromptu bedtime story Shyamalan invented for his two young daughters. "The way I tell stories to my kids is very freeform—whatever pops into my head and comes out of my mouth," he says of their nightly ritual.

"Do you know that someone lives under our pool?" is what popped out of Shyamalan's head on that particular night, sparking a story that played out for days and weeks on end.

Lady in the Water tells the legend of Story, a mesmerizing nymph-like young woman, and Cleveland, the broken-spirited building superintendent who discovers that she is actually a Narf-a character from an ancient and epic bedtime story—who has jour-neyed to the human world to fulfill a

vital and sacred purpose.

Here, in an exclusive interview, M. Night Shyamalan talks about his latest film, his creative process and what it's like to see stories in your head on cellu-

How is it to make a film out of a story you told your kids?

It is the same as it always is when I tell my girls stories, which is: You don't know what's going to happen. And that's dangerous and wonderful. Literally, I go, "Should we tell a story?" And they go, "Yeah." And I say, "What

RITER-DIRECTOR M. NIGHT should I tell about?" And they say, "About this glass." And I go, "Okay, so there's this man that blows glass, and you know what blowing glass is? When you put your own air and your own lungs in it. And one day he was really sad and he blew the glass, and the glass became a different color." I just make that up as I'm talking about this glass, right? And we would start going for another half an hour. And I don't know where that's going, but it'll end up in this amazing place. And there's this mania that happens because I keep on talking. And the girls can tell I don't know where I'm going, and then it suddenly goes, "Oh," and they go, "Uh huh." And we all discover it at the same moment. And that was how I wanted to make this movie.

What do you mean when you say that some of the characters in this film are 'a link in the chain'?

It's this idea that a person is told that their contribution is going to be impor-tant down the line. You are crucial in that chain of events-a link in the chain. That's part one. And next is, what would you be willing to do to ensure that your message gets out there? I'm not all that brave a guy. If the building was burning down and you were burning in it, I'd be like, "Somebody help her!" I would prob-ably consider going in and I would be re-ally torn because I'd be scared to death. But if I knew you were an author, and I knew you were an amazing author, and the only copy of your book was in the building, I probably wouldn't hesitate at all, to go in, not even for a second, to jump in that building and get that book. The preservation of an idea is far more important than anything I can imagine. Something I always talk about with the younger actors is "What would you be willing to do to really connect? Would



you be willing to do everything you needed to do, give away ego, do other things, trash everything that you've achieved to make this one connection, if you could do it just one time?" It's a powerful idea, this idea of what you'd be willing to do, if you're told what your link in the chain was, and what was going to happen to you. Would that be satisfying enough—to be part of that chain?

What were the risks of making this

I'm responsible, and I know when I'm making calculated risks here and there. This was an acrobat move. I actually felt like on that side of the hill is unlimited potential. I don't know if I can, but it's in this point of view that I might be able to get there, I may not get there; most probably I won't get there. But there's a nice feeling that there's something on that side. That's how I felt here, and I wanted

everyone to feel that potential. My God, if we could get on that side of the mountain, it would be fantastic.

Does this film take on issues of faith

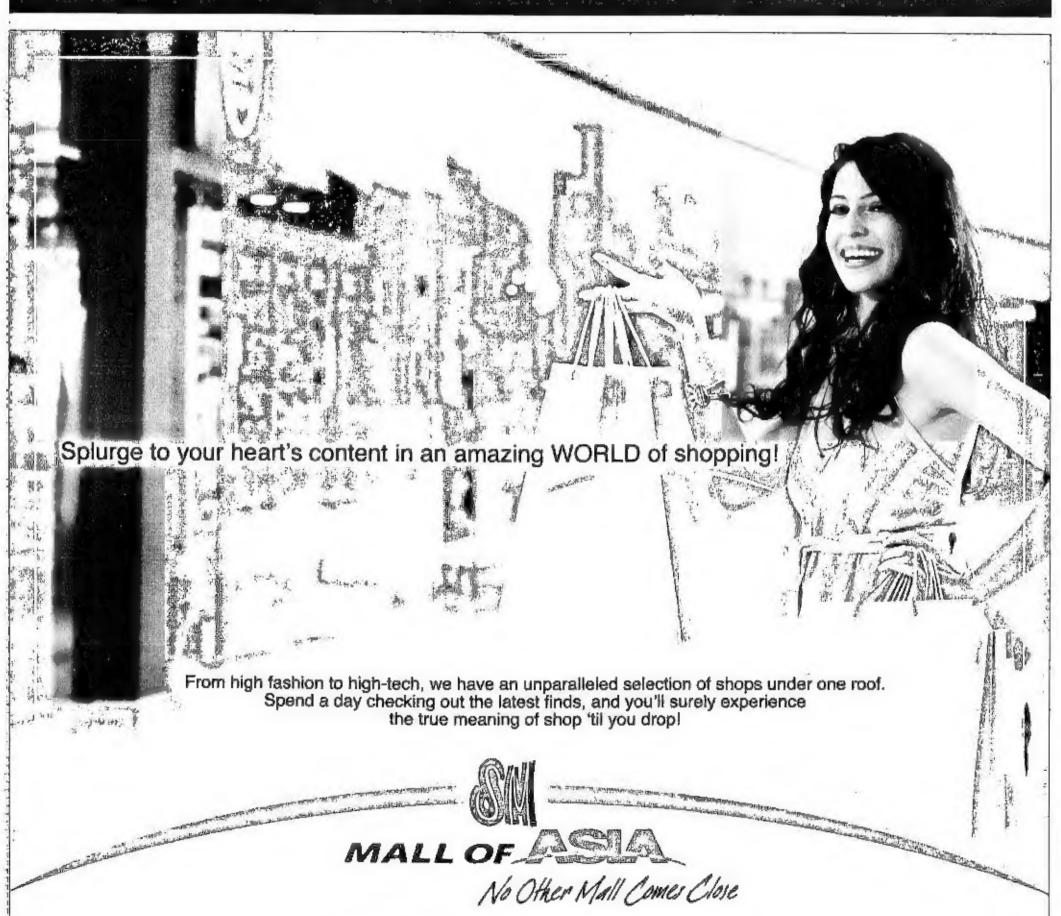
in the religious sense?
I'm not a big traditional Orthodox religious fan. That's not my thing, These are all just metaphors, and so it should be taken that way. Just a conversation of: Do we believe in believing anymore? Have we given that up? We're all definitely lost now, That's what The Village was about-—when everybody was important to the process. We all needed each other. Everything was imbued with meaning. But now, we don't know what's happening, We all just accept it. We accept so much ambiguity now. And there's kind of the purity of the storytelling where Paul desperately is telling these people, believe in believing again, and only a guy who had given up, who had zero, could make that speech to them. "Let's take a leap of faith. What's it going to hurt us if we genuinely click our heels and believe here?

Why did you choose to play the writ-

This idea of being a writer who's told that what you're doing is important—it's a dream of all writers because they all said that it's the most torturous moment, to be a writer, the blank page, and this sucks! And for someone to tell you that it's going to have an impact, like Harriet Beecher Stowe, the idea of me playing Harriett Beecher Stowe, this idea of someone who writes a book that then later has implications that you never realized. Someone like Lincoln will then read it, and then have a point of view, and then change things. That you are part of an incredible chain of events is a powerful thing that I have seen happen in my own life. I tell this story in every interview; I'm

going to tell it one more time: I was in JFK Airport, and I was driving with my parents. I'm 12 years old, and the flight's delayed, so I went in the bookstore. I got a book, which is Spike Lee's book, She's Gotta Have It, where he talks about making his first film. And I read this thing and I go, "You can just make movies? You can just go out and make movies? This is crazy. I didn't know you could do that." And I was like, "Wow, this is legitimately somelike, "Wow, this is legitimately some-thing I could go do." So, life goes on. I decided to go to film school, and I go, and I make movies. Luckily, people go to see them; I make money; I start a foundation; the foundation gets involved with this community in India where this woman stood up to these pillaging people and started to educate the women in her town; and I am now going to help those people and save lives and save those children. That means Spike Lee saving lives in that town. He was a link in a chain that he is completely unaware of, by empowering me, who then empowers other peo-ple and we keep being part of a chain of events. It's a real thing that happens. It's an amazing thing. If someone told Spike, "You know what? Yeah, you're going to make movies and all that stuff. But actually what's going to happen is you're going to save about 10 children's lives in a town in India if you just write this book." I mean, he wouldn't believe it. You know what I mean? But it's what happens. And it continues to happen, this network, a veining of pos-

itive actions.
Did you ever tell Spike that? No. No I haven't. I do, I talk to Spike' a lot, but I didn't tell him that. He'll think I'm corny.



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